

THE  
**ARCHITECT**  
& BUILDING NEWS

IN THIS ISSUE

- NEW CLASSROOM BLOCK,  
SALVATORIAN COLLEGE, HARROW WEALD
- ADDITION TO ERITH COUNTY GRAMMAR SCHOOL



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# KINNEAR PATENT STEEL ROLLING SHUTTERS

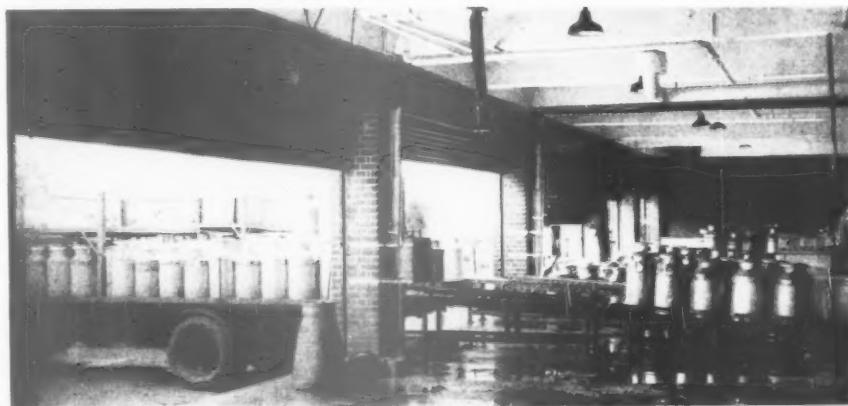
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Trade Mark



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Interior and exterior views of 6 Kinnear Shutters on Loading Bank. These 6 Shutters were erected by us in 1931 on openings 9ft. high by 11ft. 8in., 15ft. 8in. and 17ft. 9in. wide ; operation is by hand-chain from loading platform.

Kinnear Shutters are the Shutters by which other Shutters are judged.



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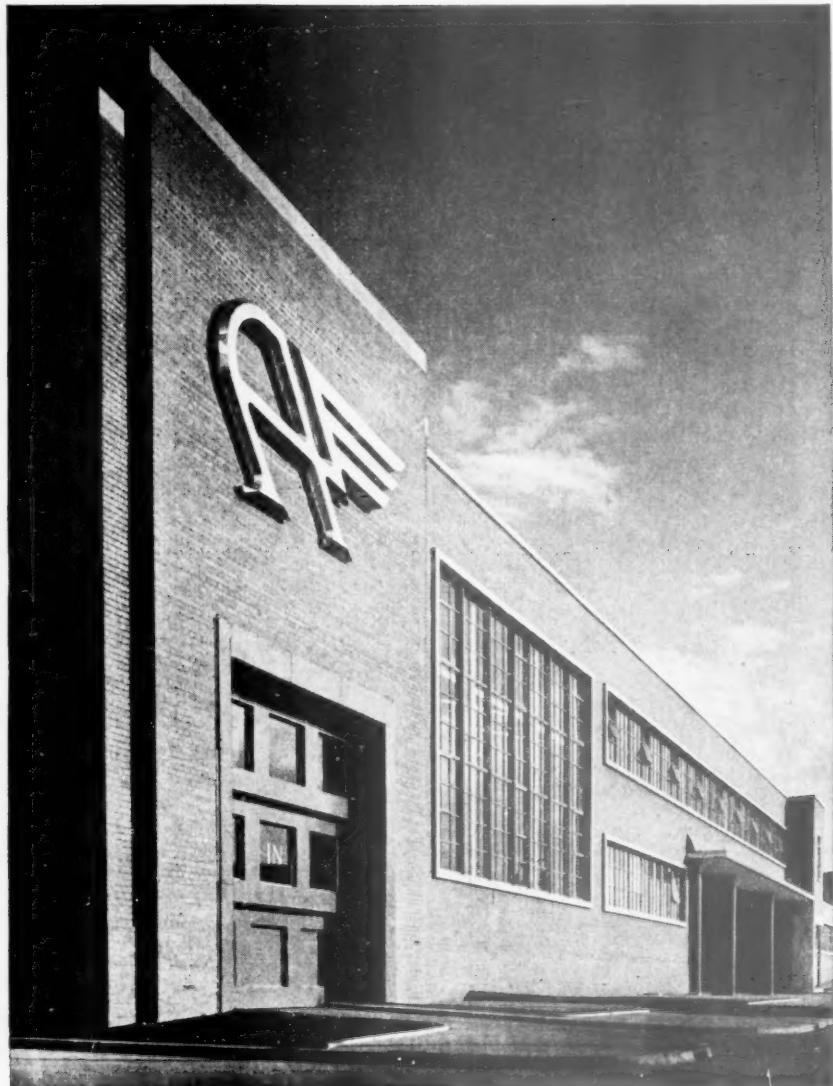
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Telegrams: "Shannies Twickenham"  
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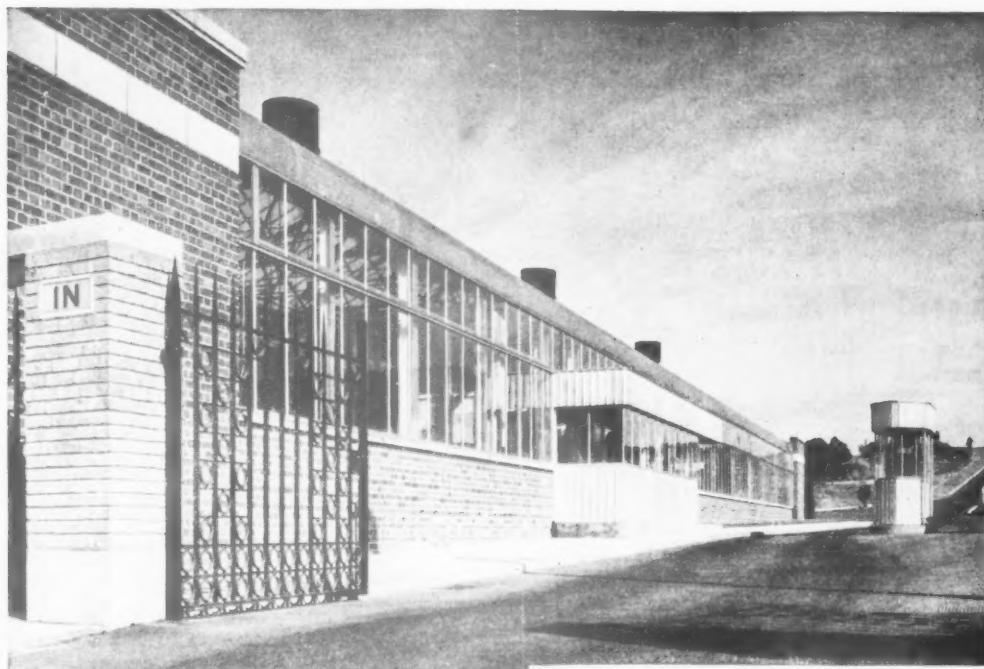


V

ISION IN MODERN INDUSTRIAL DESIGN

featuring the use  
of metal windows  
and patent glazing  
in the Austin Factory  
Extensions

These photographs illustrate the versatility possible with the joint use of metal windows and patent glazing and how it has been employed by the architect with effect in the new buildings at Longbridge. Beauty goes hand in hand with utility as the buildings are both elegant and completely functional. The windows were produced by Williams and Williams, who also supplied the Aluminex Patent Glazing.



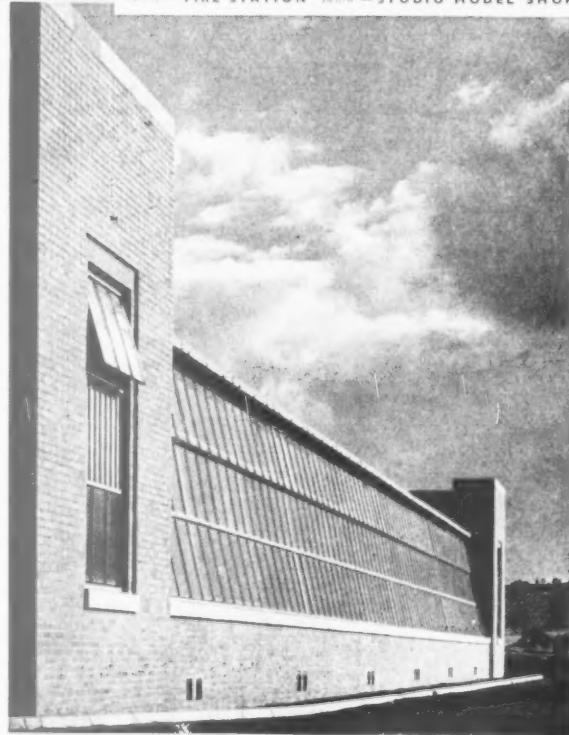
Top — FIRE STATION Below — STUDIO MODEL SHOP

**Car assembly building** The main window in this building — 30ft. wide by 19ft. high — is constructed from natural finish aluminium with steel mullions sheathed in aluminium. The other ranges of windows are also in aluminium mill finish.

**The studio model shop** The maximum light needed in this building where new models are studied and designed, is admirably provided by Aluminex Patent Glazing. Each tier of glazing consists of three top hung ventilators 44ft. long by 3ft. 7ins. high, independently operated by Teleflex gear and glazed with 3/16" broad reeded glass.

**The fire station** The imaginative use of Aluminex has achieved great effect here. Stretching for 150 feet, the glazing has been used to enhance the distinctive character of this building. The top three feet of the nine feet high range are manually operated by Teleflex gear so that the required degree of ventilation is easily obtained. Teleflex will open lengths of up to 200 feet from one control, and both manual and electrical control systems are available to suit particular installations.

Prefabricated sheet aluminium forms the continuous eaves fascia which was also manufactured by Williams & Williams. The whole result is in keeping with the standing of Austins of England and will no doubt attract the sincerest form of flattery in many parts of the world where Austin's leadership is unquestioned.



#### WILLIAMS and WILLIAMS Ltd

*Makers of Metal Windows, Doors and*

*Aluminex Patent Glazing*

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**DURABILITY.** Ediswan Fluorescent lighting equipment is specially cleaned and treated to ensure an anti-corrosive surface before the final finish is applied. Enamel finishes are stoved in Infra-red ovens to ensure hard, wear-resisting qualities and long life even under adverse conditions.

**SIMPLICITY.** Ediswan Fluorescent lighting equipment is as easy to maintain as it is to install. On the fitting illustrated removal of diffusing enclosures is effected by finger pressure on flush push buttons located in the end panels, making cleaning and relamping a simple operation.



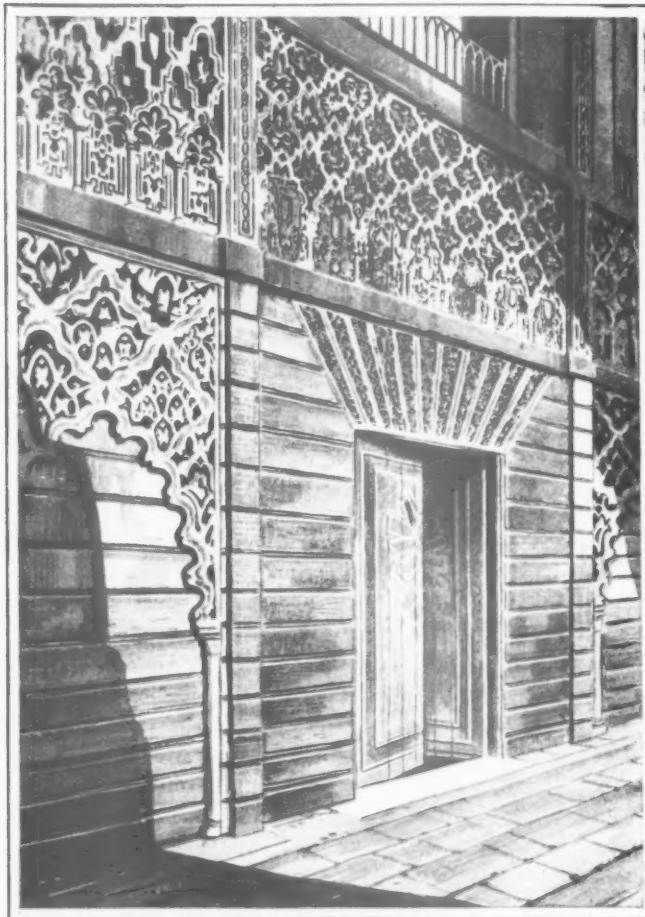
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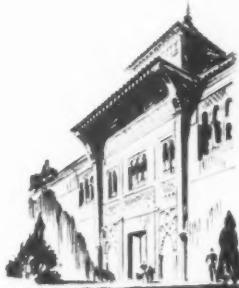
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## *Walls— Old and New*



THE ALCAZAR, with its outer "wall of lace", survives as the chief relic of Arab dominion in Spain, and shows the richness of design and colour introduced by Moorish influence. The involved geometric pattern which covers the wall gives it the delicate lace-like appearance to which it owes its name.

The great architects of the past have left enduring monuments to their skilful choice of materials to meet the

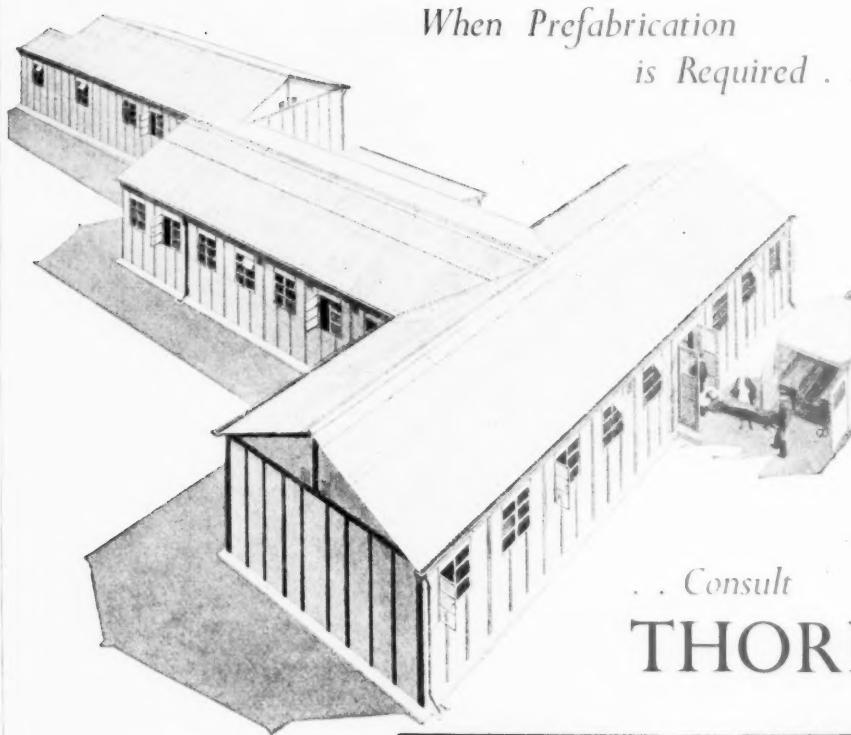
demands of those days . . .

Today, the architects who have inherited such great traditions must also specify materials of durability: but with additional qualities such as the flexibility of planning now demanded everywhere. Fortunately, science has given them the best of both worlds—old and new—in Holoplast Movable Walls, which are now to be found in up-to-date buildings all over the world.

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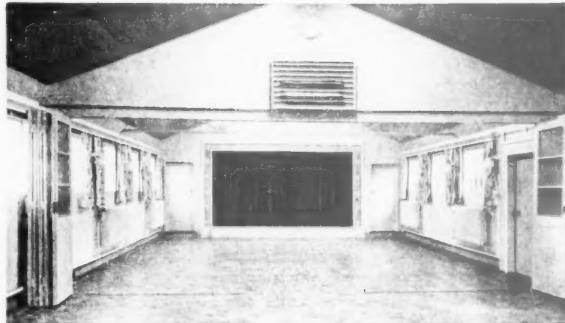
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**PATENT**

*Roof*

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*The Eastfield Factory of Messrs. F. Perkins Ltd., Diesel Engine Manufacturers, Peterborough.*



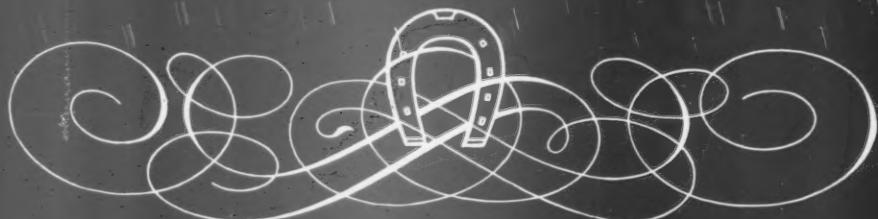
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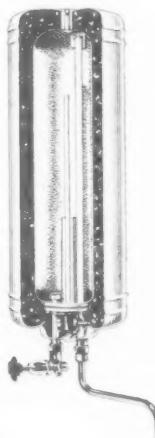
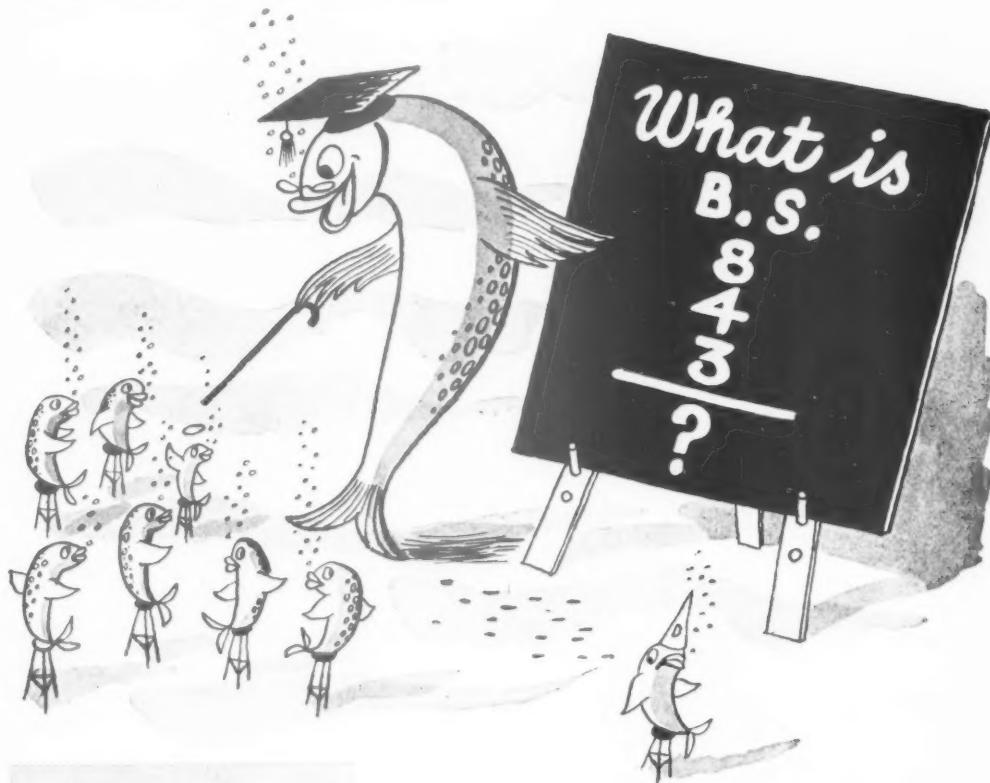


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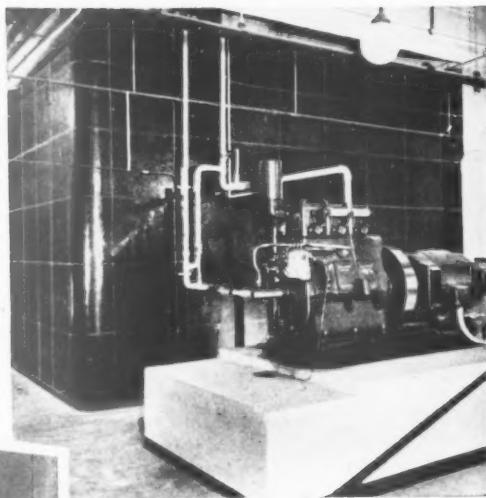
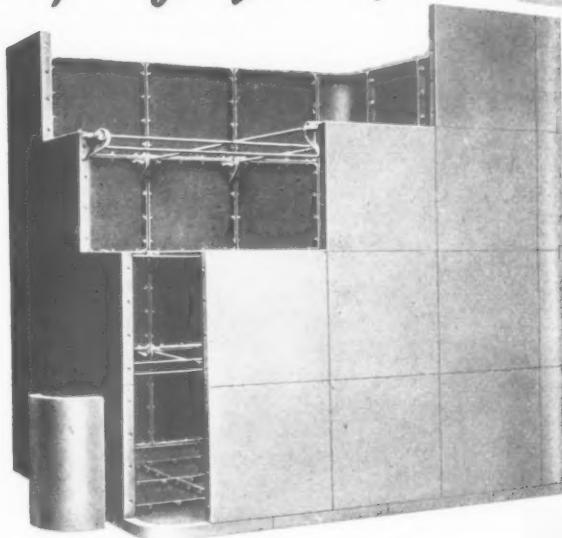
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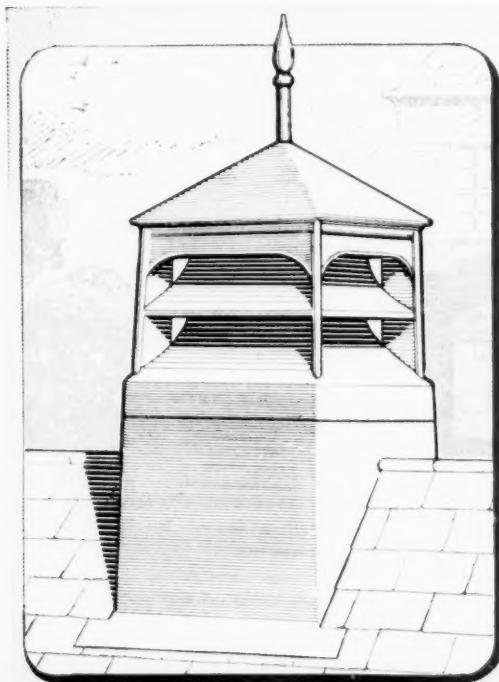
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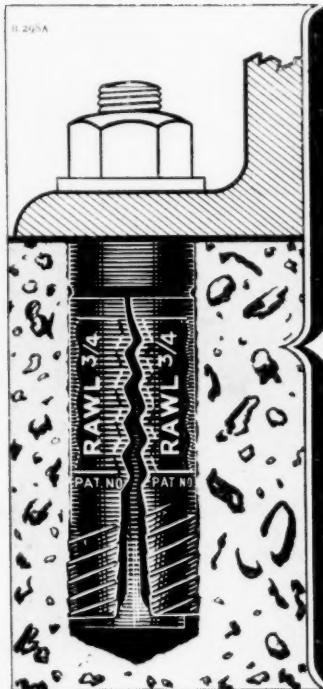
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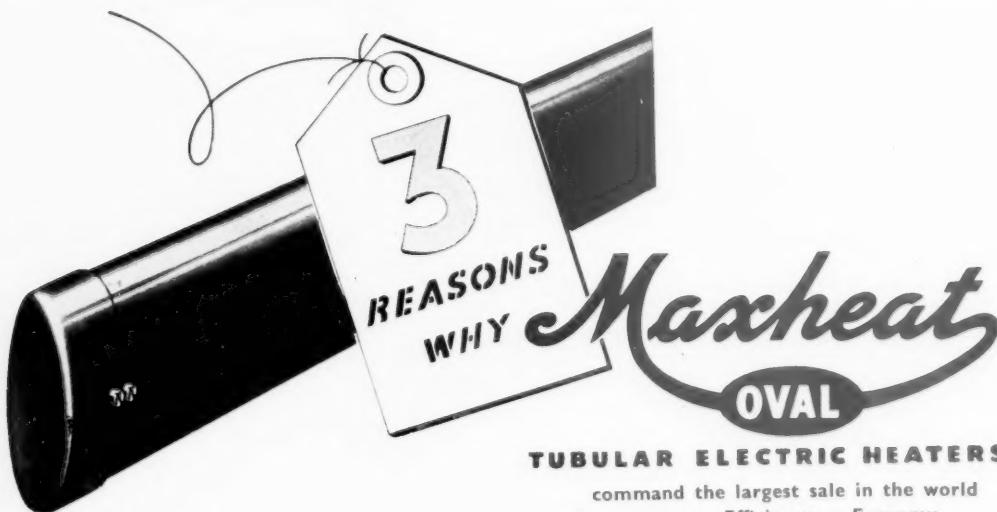
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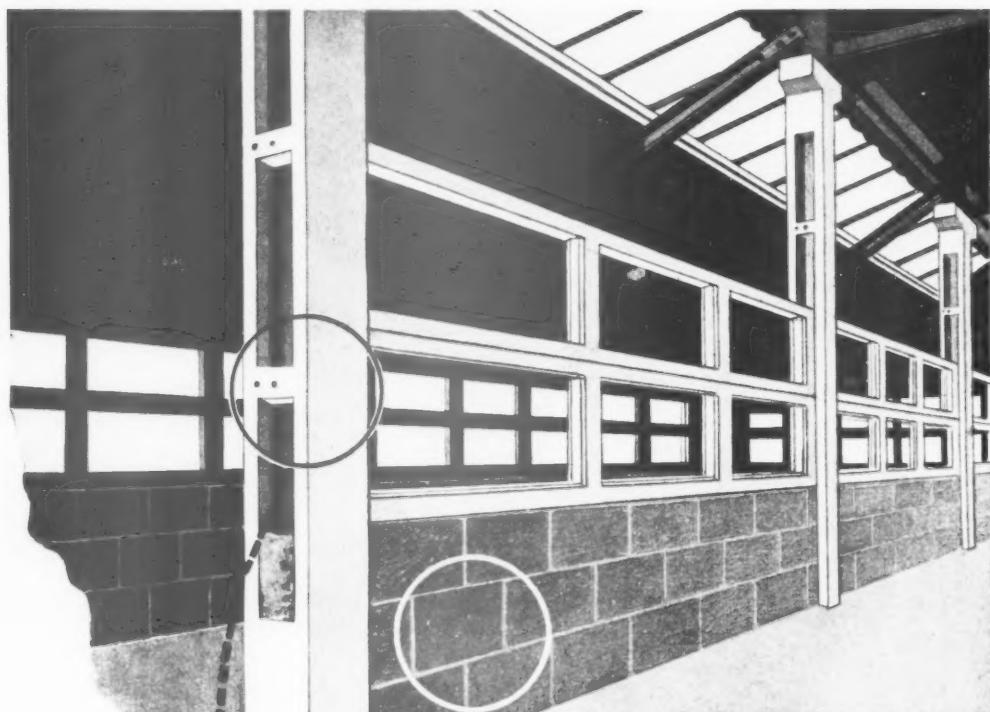
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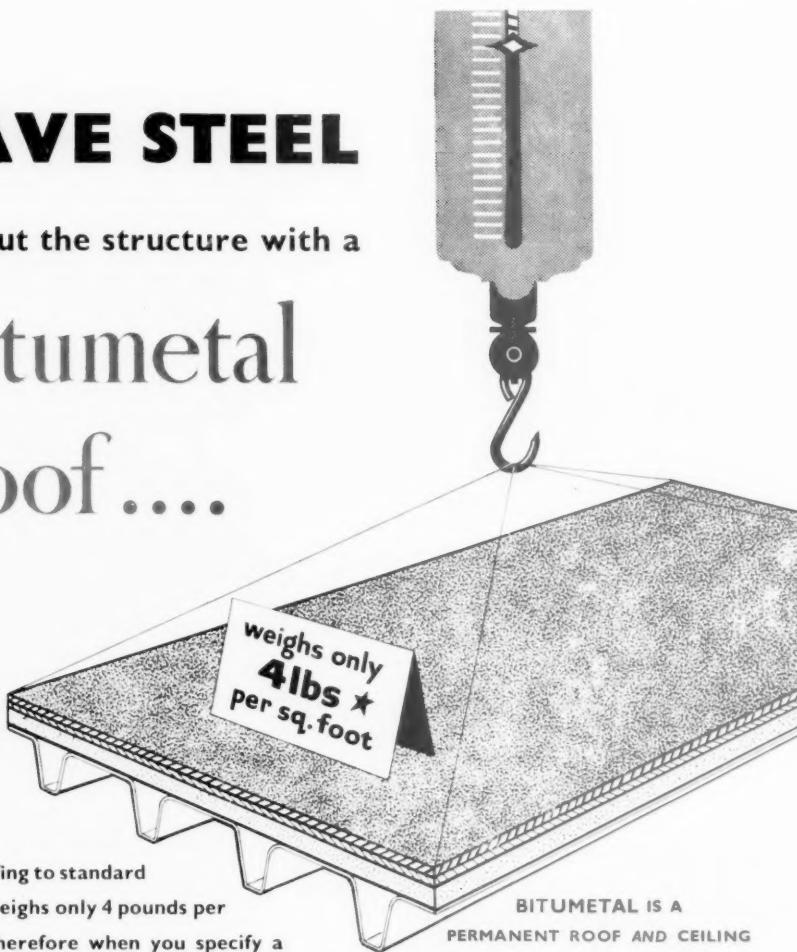
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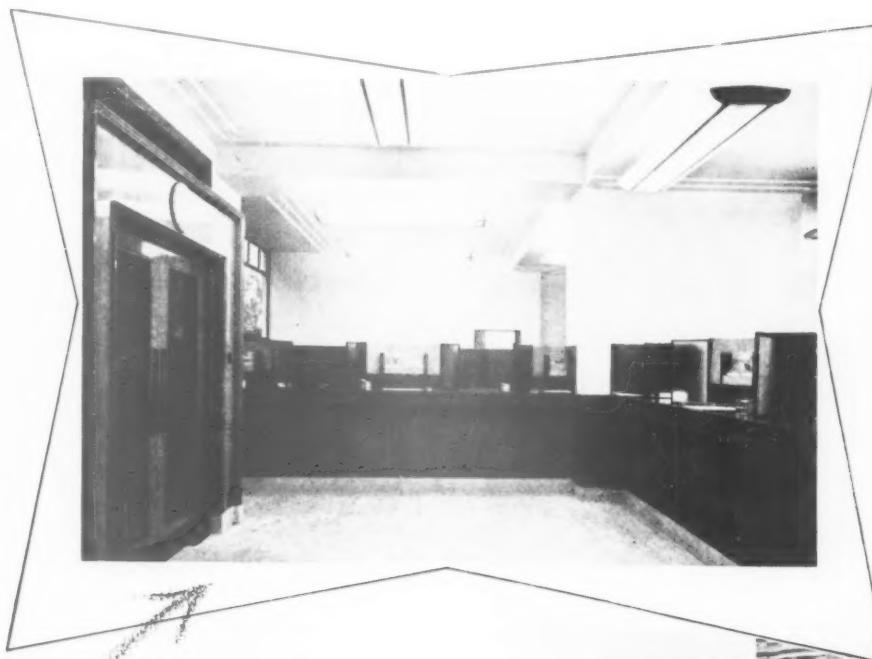
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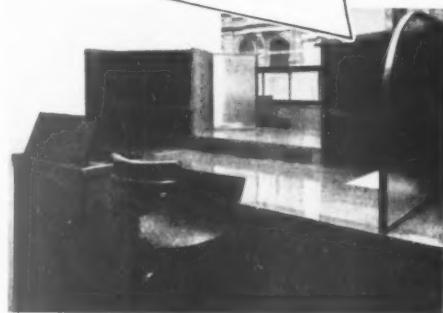
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*Cecil Kahn*



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THE  
**ARCHITECT**  
 & BUILDING NEWS

September 4, 1952

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## ARTING IT UP

**I**N his lecture to the York Summer School of Architectural Study, reported more fully elsewhere in this issue, Mr. John M. Holmes, Principal, Manchester Regional College of Art, concluded with the following summary:

"Decorative expression distinguishes architecture from building and engineering. Its importance has been overlooked.

It has been overlooked because of emphasis on the reasoning faculty of the mind at the expense of other mental faculties.

The isolation of architecture from the other arts during training has ensured continued separation. The result is ineffective architecture, misunderstanding and frustration amongst painters, sculptors and designers with consequent inability to co-operate and, finally, the bewilderment or boredom of the general public.

I suggest that we should attempt to close these gaps or at least to note them as worthy of earnest consideration."

There are few who will disagree with Mr. Holmes' conclusions, or that economic conditions are unfavourable to "decorative expression in architecture."

Many architects would like to employ painters and sculptors more generously, but can only afford a small patch by the one or piece by the other as a symbol of good-will, and try by the use of colour and good proportion to intrigue the eye sufficiently.

But in any case, even when decoration has been possible, it is fair to ask "would this wall, this surface, have looked better plain?" Nine times out of ten the honest answer would be "yes." But the tenth time is held to justify the law that architecture embraces sculpture and painting.

The present phase of austerity is not entirely without justification. For example "The Logs," a large house looking over Hampstead Heath and built

in 1868, has "decorative expression" to a degree, carved stone animals abound; coloured tiles underfoot and on eye level; wall-paintings and architectural exuberance to match, but nevertheless the verdict of Professor Pevsner is "a formidable atrocity." In short, the decorative expression pleased, if at all, for a year or two only, whereas the structure survives and is in use to this day.

Again, this time a contemporary instance. Berwick Church, Sussex, has been treated internally by a group of well-known painters as a three-dimensional canvas. Will these paintings commend themselves to future generations?

It is by no means certain that they will.

At the South Bank last summer the inclusion of sculpture and painting greatly added to the general effect, but individually much of it seemed somewhat at odds with the architecture.

Unless the architect's design and the embellishments of artists and craftsmen have the same stamina, there can be no unity. The building, if it is good, is marred by the decoration; or if not it is merely an easel for the artist's work.

The finest decorative expression marches with the fabric of the building in our estimation throughout its life—as does the Five Sisters Window in York Cathedral.

But do enough of us know a good thing when we see it? A recent pontifical pronouncement inveighed against the employment of very modern artists in church decoration. This pronouncement embraces the Matisse Chapel at Vence and the remarkable church at Assy, which many critics regard as vital examples of decorative expression.

It is obvious that students cannot cram into five years an adequate study of several other branches of art as well as the necessary scientific and technical subjects. The only sane view of education is to

regard it as a life-long process and not as a short, severe ordeal followed by indifference to everything except day-to-day problems.

The study of painting and sculpture, or rather interest in them, starts in the nursery and, if all goes well, ends only in the grave or the urn. This should allow time enough for experiment and discussion with professional artists in order to work out the integration of sculpture and painting with architecture, and so avoid such mistakes as requiring a sculptor to carve too great a surface, or a painter to distort his work (pace Michel Angelo!) to fill a space unsuited to it. In Sweden a firm of architects designed and executed abstract paintings on the exterior of their buildings with the result that unity has been destroyed as if by camouflage.

The modern movement in industrial design has

done more than turn everything into the likeness of a blancmange. It has given artists the opportunity to move to wider fields than the canvas and the allegorical figure on its pedestal and to bring colour and design where they should be—everywhere—or rather a start has been made, for who would deduce from our streets that thousands of students pass through art schools every year?

The close tie between the Royal College of Art and the A.A. School of Architecture, and the appointment by the R.C.A. of Sir Hugh Casson as Reader in Interior Design are signs that the closing of the gap has begun. But the man in the street must wait like the puzzled, cross, middle-aged woman in the *Punch* picture who sits in front of an abstract painting in a gallery, telling her friend that she is not going to budge until she understands it.

## EVENTS AND COMMENTS

### UNESCO

I missed the announcement of the appointment of Marcel Breuer and Bernard Zehrfuss as architects, and Pier Nervi as engineer for the new Unesco H.Q. to be built near the Bois de Boulogne in Paris. These temporary international partnerships have been criticized in the past and much must depend on the temperaments of the partners. The Uno building, designed in theory by a large international group, was carried out very largely by one firm of architects. Whatever its shortcomings it is easily the most distinguished skyscraper in New York.

The Unesco has but three persons in its group all strong personalities. Presumably M. Zehrfuss, being on the spot, will carry out the job with the others looking in from time to time. If this guess is correct I imagine that he will have a more difficult time than Mr. Harrison had, for who would not rather face a committee than a pair of tough individualists?

In spite of the critics of this system of designing buildings this triumvirate may be expected to produce something fairly good and may even give French architecture the lift it so badly needs.

I also missed the announcement of the consideration by Unesco of a draft convention for the protection of cultural property in the event of armed conflict. This seems to be worthy of Samuel Butler himself and there could surely be no finer comment on our times, particularly when one sees that the list of participating countries includes neither the United States nor Russia.

I suppose the idea will be to paint pink or other coloured spots on buildings considered to be of cultural importance to both sides and to fight the war in the gaps.

Hurstmonceaux! bring the spotted paint, there's one of those damned Aquavetaine tanks at the bottom of the garden again.

### FOLDING CRANE FOLDS

You may have read recently of a continental tower crane operating in this country which collapsed, fortunately without loss of life or injury. Naturally everyone, but most of all the makers and importers, were considerably upset by this mishap and at once held an investigation

and obtained a report from an independent engineering consultant. This report agreed with that of the engineer for the insurance company. The cause was really quite simple to determine. The crane, for ease in travelling, is arranged to fold in half. In the working position the tower is locked by an aluminium painted cross bar. This bar was found in the driver's cabin. The driver dazzled by the sun on the bright paint had swarmed up the rigging and removed it.

The crane makers might perhaps consider including a pair of dark glasses in the tool-kit.

Joking apart it is reassuring to hear that this accident had a simple explanation which did not reflect on the stability of the crane.

### SOLID FUEL APPLIANCES

It is unpleasant but necessary to remember that it is time to think about preparing for cold weather. If, like many of us, you have been intending all the summer to put some insulation in the roof space and cause your external doors to be weatherstripped there are no aesthetic considerations which need worry you before putting the work in hand. You may well wonder, however, why weatherstripping is such an exorbitant price.

If you need a new fireplace or stove you will naturally turn to the "solid fuel burning appliances" on the approved list of the Ministry of Fuel and Power as shown in the various showrooms and exhibits of the Coal Utilization Council. There are sizes for all purposes and many can be arranged for gas ignition and to heat water or radiators or even to provide converted warm air to other rooms. Broadly speaking you will find that free-standing stoves are the most efficient and open fires the least. All the "approved appliances" are much more efficient than the normal open fire. So far so good, but you will be able to find no unbiased information from here on. You will find no technician who will tell you whether X is better than Y unless he is more interested in selling one or the other. In short, you must choose for yourself. Having been told that all the appliances before you work equally well, you will probably choose the one that looks nicest in the colour that revolts you least. The extraordinary

thing is that the external design of most of the free-standing stoves is monstrous and varies from German strapwork to setting suns. Why too few manufacturers have ever taken the trouble to employ an industrial designer on their products is a mystery to me. Possibly they sell all their stoves without having to bother, but the choice for the discerning few is strictly limited. I think that as the general standard of taste improves—and I believe that it is improving, manufacturers will be forced to do something about these hideous stoves. They will, after all, only be following the manufacturers of cookers who, even before the war, had begun to see that their products must not only cook well but look well. Many of the open fires would be much improved by the attentions of someone with an eye for line and pleasant shapes. Manufacturers' colour and texture ranges often seem to be devised to astonish by their hideous ingenuity rather than to please. We owe a lot to the scientists who have improved the efficiency of solid-fuel fires and it would be pleasant if we could praise the manufacturers for improving their appearance.

#### LYNMOUTH

The problem of rebuilding Lynmouth was shortly dealt with in a leader last week. I would like to write about it rather more fully. The horror of the disaster and the memory of the severe losses in life and property are still very much with us, but they must not be allowed to obscure the urgent practical need for providing homes and means of earning a livelihood to those whose existence

depends on the tourist trade. There is a danger that the jumble of assorted buildings which was the old Lynmouth, will in retrospect become more beautiful and more picturesque than it really was. It certainly had its points but I well remember escaping from its tea shops and its gift shops with a sigh of relief that I never need go there again.

It is apparently agreed that Lynmouth shall be rebuilt. But how? As the leader said, it would not be practicable to put the buildings back as they were. Piecemeal reconstruction, with and without a panel of architects, would hardly be likely to produce a happy result. The *New Statesman* suggests a competition, but what superman is there who could frame the conditions to suit all the various interests within our lifetime. A second Portmeirion might be a good idea but such a scheme requires an architect who is also an artist. I can think of some suitable people, Clough Williams-Ellis—of course—Sir Hugh Casson, Basil Spence or Colwyn Fowkes, all men of sensibility but all probably far too busy to give the intense personal attention that such a project would require.

We may as well face the fact that a contemporary solution to the problem would kill Lynmouth as a centre for tourists. What is wanted is good, scholarly village architecture, based on traditional forms, with plenty of imaginative detail. Unless someone takes a fairly strong line now almost anything may happen, from the dreariest builder's botch (and this is the most likely), to modified Emett. A coordinating architect of national repute should be appointed now.

**ABNER**

## NEWS OF THE WEEK

### Houses to be Built Under Licence

Mr. Harold Macmillan, Minister of Housing and Local Government, has sent a circular to local authorities advising them of further action which they can take to ensure that the fullest possible use is made of available resources in their areas for the building of houses.

He points out that substantial progress has been made during the last eight months and the figures for houses completed and started show that the number of houses provided, and to be provided, for letting to families in need of houses is running continuously at a higher level than in 1951.

Representations have been made, however, that in many districts there are still many families in need of a home for their own occupation who are prepared to build one, and also builders and building workers not at present engaged on house building who could build these homes without prejudice to other essential services.

The Minister is anxious that these resources should not lie unused through inability to obtain licences. He therefore asks all local authorities within the next month to review the applications which have been made to

them for licences, and to inform the Principal Regional Officers of the Ministry of the number for which they would be prepared to issue licences if additional licences could be made available. The Principal Regional Officer, in the light of his own knowledge of the amount of building labour available in the area, will advise the authority to what extent, if any, licences for additional houses can be issued between now and the end of 1952.

Since the number of licences issued will not affect the programmes of the authorities themselves, the Minister is confident that residence in the area in which it is desired to build will not be regarded as an essential qualification for a licence. But licences should continue to be issued by the authority for the area in which the applicant desires to build.

### Sale of Council Houses

Mr. Harold Macmillan, has also given general consent to all local authorities in England and Wales to sell any of their council houses subject to certain conditions. This consent is contained in a circular which explains in detail the powers which councils now have to sell council houses and to build houses for sale.

The circular points out that while the Government have made it clear that it is their general policy to encourage house ownership, it is for each local authority to decide whether or not it wishes to sell its houses. The Minis-

ter, however, wishes to ensure that where an applicant wants to buy and the local authority wants to sell an agreement for sale should not be frustrated by any difficulty in obtaining his consent.

Subject to the conditions laid down in the circular (set out below) local authorities now have discretion to sell occupied houses to the sitting tenants. The circular also gives them discretion to sell houses which are unoccupied, or have not previously been let, provided that they go to persons in need of homes. It is for each local authority to decide whether or not to sell any of its houses and, if so, how many.

No local authority can force its tenants to buy, but tenants have an opportunity of buying the houses in which they are living if they wish to do so and if the council is willing to sell.

The Housing Act, 1952, which received the Royal Assent on August 1 and which is explained in detail to local authorities in another circular, enables the Minister to require that certain conditions shall be imposed by the local authority before giving his consent to sale. It amends earlier legislation which would have compelled local authorities to exact a price which represented the existing scarcity value of property, but authorizes the imposition of conditions of sale to prevent the purchaser from reselling at an inflated price, or letting at an excessive rent.

The Minister has, therefore, in giving

[Continued on page 279]



Photos: Douglas M. Simmonds



NEW AMERICAN  
DEPARTMENT STORE

**B**ULLOCK'S Westwood Department Store, Westwood Village, California. Architects, Welton Becket and Associates. The store is on three levels, including tea-room on roof, with a unique three-level garage and roof-deck so closely integrated with the store that a motorist can park virtually within a few yards of the particular section he wishes to shop at. Altogether, parking for 1,000 cars has been provided. The store is on a sloping 4-acre site, the slope enabling each of the two principal shopping floors to have pedestrian entrances off the street and "floor-level parking" with access to parking area on three sides of the building.

Continued from page 277

his general consent to the sale of council houses, laid down the following general conditions:

*Price*

(1) In the case of a house completed on or before May 8, 1945, the sale price is to be not less than twenty times the net annual rent exclusive of rates, water charges, etc.

(2) In the case of a house built after May 8, 1945, the sale price is to be not less than the total cost to the authority of providing the house.

*Conditions of Sale*

(1) For five years from the date of sale the house is not to be let at a higher rent than that fixed by the local authority, nor is it to be resold at a higher price than that at which it was bought, subject to allowance for improvements or depreciation.

(2) An owner who wishes to resell the house must first offer it to the local authority at the price at which it was bought, subject to allowance for improvements or depreciation.

In the same circular the Minister also gives his general consent to local authorities to exercise their powers of leasing council houses for a term of 99 years or longer. The general conditions are similar to those for the sale by the council of a freehold property, except that the minimum price is adjusted to allow for the proposed ground rent.

Local authorities are reminded in the circular of their powers under the Housing Acts to agree to payments for a sale or for the granting of a lease being made by instalments, or to a payment being secured by a mortgage.

*Timber Licences*

The Ministry of Housing and Local Government, in a letter to Housing Authorities, refers to Circular 59/52 of July 18, 1952, regarding the raising of the "Free Limit" under Building Licensing Regulations and says that all applicants for licences for softwood for housing purposes should be referred to The Ministry of Housing and Local Government Regional Office, Caxton House, Tothill Street, London, S.W.1, and not to offices of the Timber Control.

The first of a series of Steel Economy Bulletins, "The Design of Buildings," has been published by the Ministry of Works, price 3d from H.M.S.O. or any bookseller.

*CHANGE OF ADDRESS*

Mr. Walter A. Ruse, L.R.I.B.A., Chartered Architect and Surveyor, is now practising from Esur Studio, 17, Richmond Terrace, Clifton, Bristol, 8. Tel.: Bristol 33215.

*COMING EVENT*

*London Master Builders' Association.*  
September 10 at 2 p.m. General Meeting of Central Area No. 1 at Derry & Tom's Restaurant, Kensington High Street, W.8.



See letter below on "Untidy Skylines"

**C O R R E S P O N D E N C E**

**Untidy Skylines**

*To the Editor of A. & B. N.*

Sir,—It happens very regularly that handsome, modern buildings, incorporating architectural designs of the highest merit and attractiveness, are spoilt by a certain curious and ugly feature.

After the architect's dignified and beautiful conception has assumed its final form, the skyline is disfigured by the appearance on the roof of unseemly oddments in the way of a pre-fab. dwelling for the caretaker, the head of a lift shaft, a tool shed or two and perhaps some cheap erection to act as a staff-canteen. This miscellaneous jumble of shanties, built of inferior materials and without plan or design, may not be visible from the pavement immediately below the main façade, but is often an eyesore when a side-view of the building is obtained.

No doubt your readers will be aware of many examples of the kind of thoughtless abuse of architecture mentioned above. The enclosed postcard shows two cases in Manchester.

I am, etc.,

L. M. ANGUS-BUTTERWORTH.

**Stone as Substitute  
for Steel**

*To the Editor of A. & B. N.*

Sir,—"Dutch Uncle" in your issue of August 21 uses the word "Stone" in a very loose way which detracts, I suggest, from the interest of his article. In places I would say he referred to Granite, while in others he might be referring to Sandstone, Freestone or Limestone, all of which come under the heading of Building Stone.

In the Granite quarries producing building and architectural stone, I cannot bring to mind one that has not provided for the use of waste by installing

crushing plant for making it into road-stone and concrete aggregate.

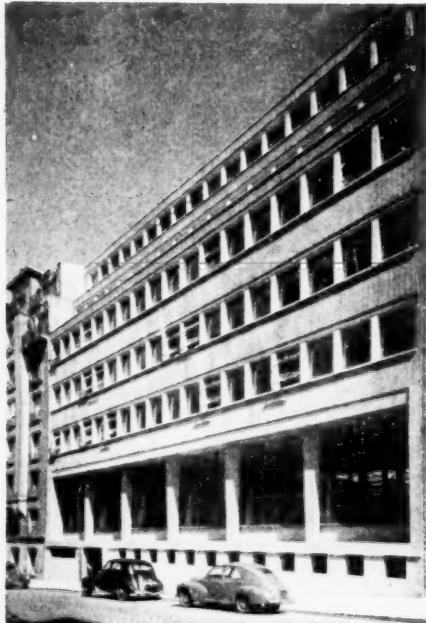
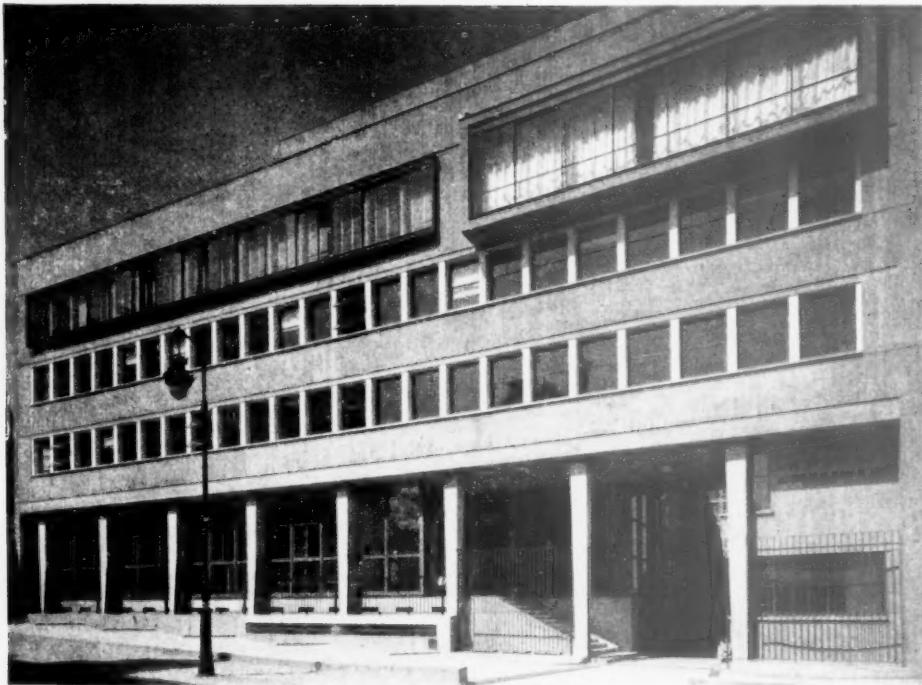
In the, may I call it, softer building stones, Limestone quarries in general have also crushing plants as have the sandstone quarries with stone hard enough for roadstone. But there are quite a number of important building stone quarries the stone from which is absolutely excellent for building and architectural purposes, but is not used for crushing. Outstanding examples are the Bath and Portland Stone Firms, Ltd., South Western Stone Co. Ltd., and Forest of Dean Stone Firms Ltd. There are others, of course, including quite a number in Scotland.

In his second paragraph, our Dutch Uncle says—"There is no doubt that for many purposes stone could be used for load-bearing construction, but, and it is a very large but, there is the extremely important matter of cost together with other difficulties, such as the availability of skilled masons both at the quarries and more particularly on the sites."

Well, I can visualise stone pillars, made up in sections, either of Granite or building stone, on which the masonry work is practically nil. All the work could be done mechanically and economically. Big blocks could be sawn down to the requisite sizes, all the sides of the blocks being sawn. I understand, however, the Granite quarry people cannot afford to cut down large solid blocks to say 18-inch squares. And the cost of sawing Granite is more expensive than with the softer stone. Hence the higher price.

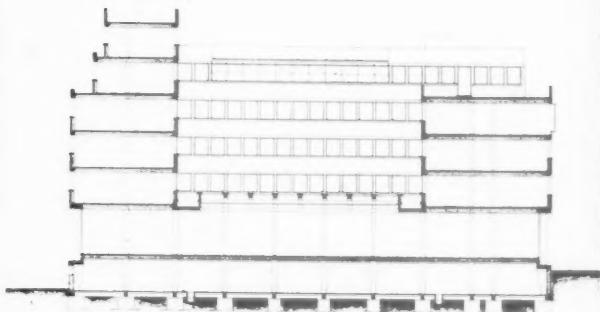
But how pillars of sawn stone would compare in price with steel I do not know. But if all the steel we produce is required for armaments, motor cars and such like, the shortage of masons need not keep the quarries from supplying stone as a substitute in certain cases for steel in building.

I am, etc.,  
S. MCPHERSON.

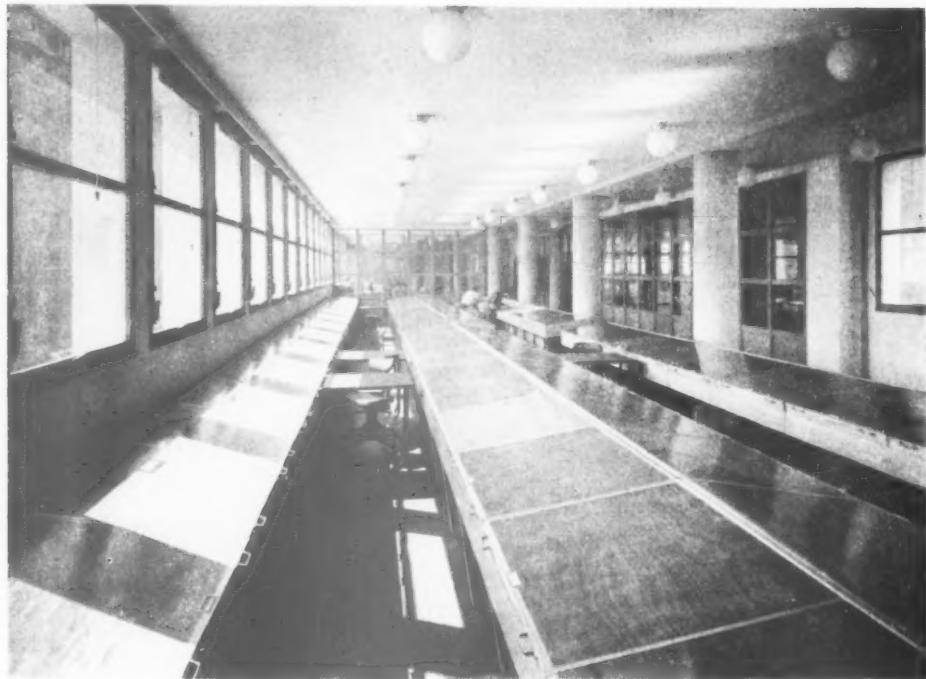


## SOCIAL SERVICES BUILDING, PARIS

ARCHITECT - BERNARD H. ZEHRFUSS

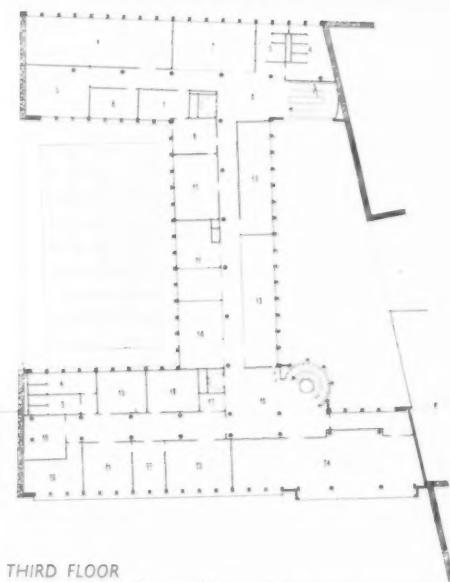


This new building, which occupies 1,700 square metres, has two almost parallel street façades, both of which are illustrated. The key to the ground- and third-floor plans is given in French as it is not easy to translate many of the words into the exact English equivalent. The basement which contains heating plant, etc., also houses the archives and has a number of offices not required for use by the public.



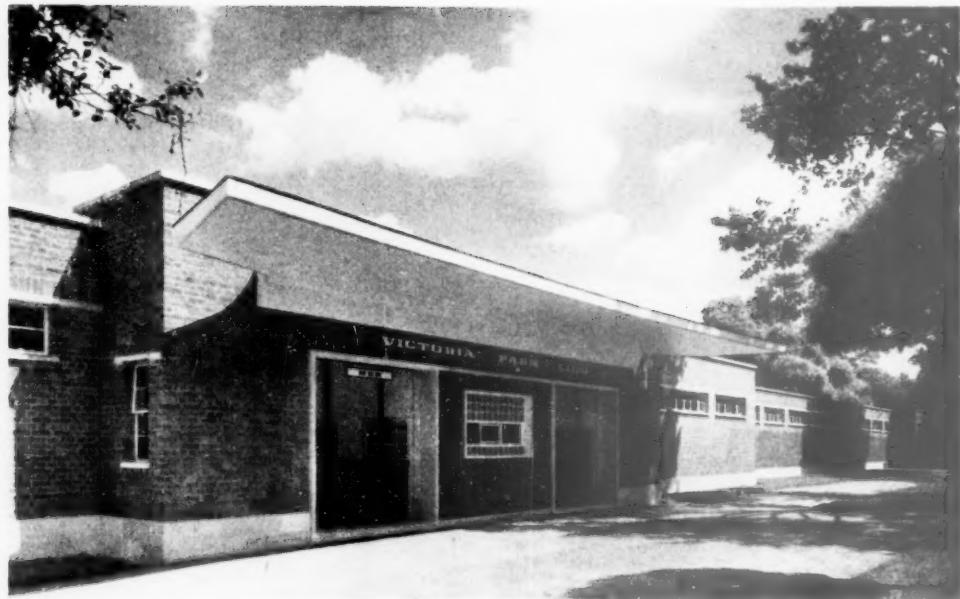
#### GROUND FLOOR

1. Bureau du Chef de Service.
2. Pré-Groupe adhérents.
3. Salle de réception.
4. Mouvement.
5. Hall.
6. Perforation.
7. Isoloir.
8. Vérification.
9. Contrôle.
10. Cartothèque.
11. Bureau d'études.
12. Adressograph.
13. Bureau du Chef de Service.
14. Caisse et délivrance des carnets de certificats.
15. Mécanographie.
16. Hall d'entrée.
17. Caisse.
18. Atelier.
19. Guichets prestataires.
20. Salle d'attente prestataires.
21. Loge du Concierge.



#### THIRD FLOOR

1. Caisse retraite—Service adhérents.
2. Hall caisse retraite et prévoyance.
3. W.C.—hommes.
4. W.C.—femmes.
5. Liquidation.
6. Chef liquidation.
7. Prévoyance.
8. Hall.
9. Chef caisse de retraite.
10. Bibliothèque.
11. Direction Caisse de Retraite.
12. Chefs comptables caisse de retraite et Caisse de prévoyance.
13. Dactylos.
14. Comptabilité générale.
15. Réception.
16. Attente.
17. Huissier.
18. Hall direction.
19. Lavabos—vestiaires Direction.
20. Intendant.
21. Secrétaire Général.
22. Secrétaire de Direction.
23. Directeur Général.
24. Salle du Conseil d'Administration.



I. The redesigned main entrance. The original turnstiles have been retained, and two more added. In the centre is the enquiry office and main pay box, faced with Vitretex blue on rendered brickwork, while the internal walls are yellow. The r.c. canopy soffit (see detail) is Vitretex white stopped against aluminium dripbar. The cantilevered area of the canopy has a vermiculite screed on the upper surface finished with asphalt.

### War Damage Reinstatement at Victoria Park Lido

ARCHITECT: S. P. JORDAN, A.R.I.B.A., M.S.I.A., DIP.T.P.

ASSISTANT ARCHITECT: J. B. CAMERON, A.R.I.B.A.

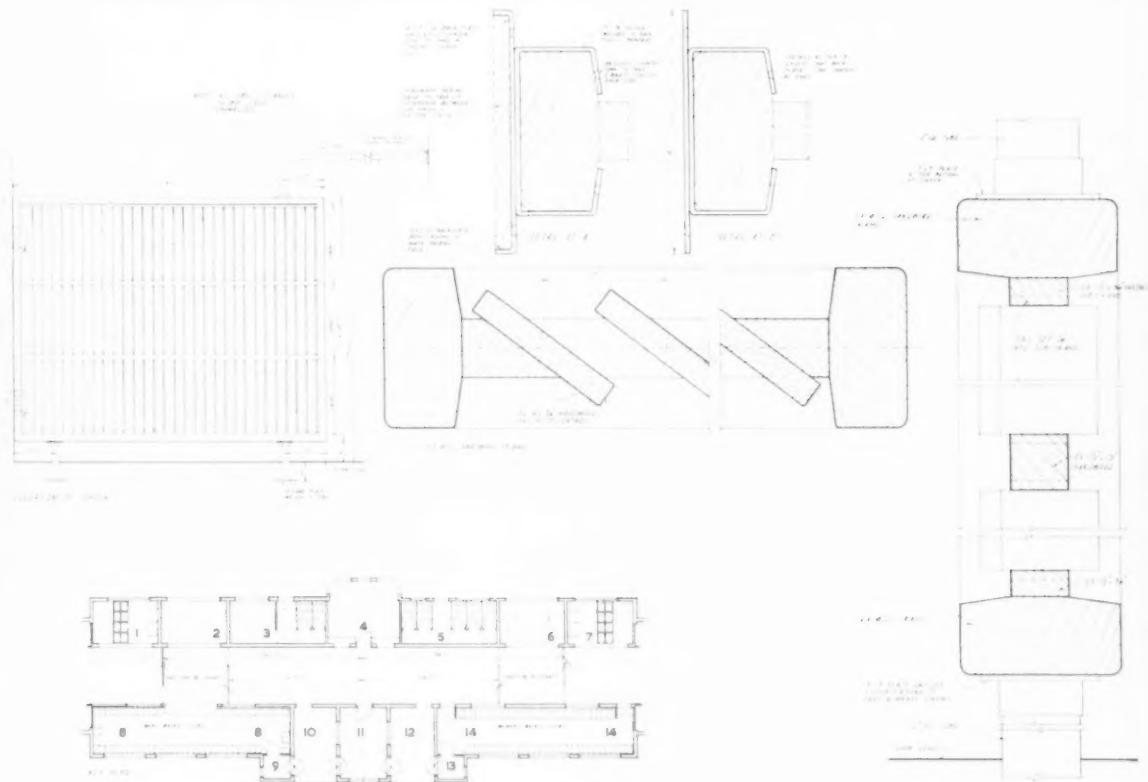
CHIEF OFFICER, L.C.C. PARKS DEPARTMENT: L. A. HUDDART, F.I.L.A.

THE L.C.C. Lido in Victoria Park, Bethnal Green, was originally completed in 1936. It suffered a considerable amount of damage during the war and the Parks Department of the L.C.C. decided two years ago to employ an architect in private practice to undertake the war damage repair and in addition to redesign certain features, chiefly the main entrance.

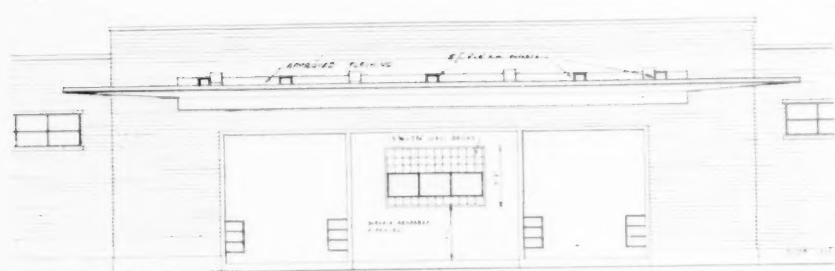
The Lido was reopened at the end of May of this year.

The changing rooms and the café were not sufficiently damaged to warrant rebuilding and have been restored to the original design.

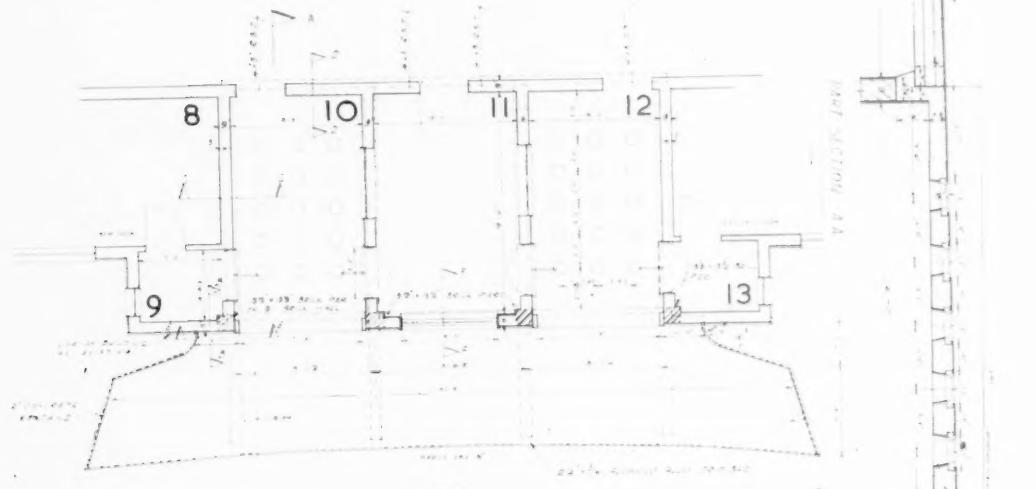
The main entrance, however, is completely new and improvements and additions to turnstiles, etc., allow a peak admission of 1,000 persons an hour. In addition to the contemporary entrance, gaily painted in blue, yellow and white, other minor changes for the better have been introduced by the architect. The boundary wall which obscured the pool from the outside world rather in the manner of a prison, has been reduced in height and surmounted in places with a brightly painted iron railing (shown in photograph of café). Similar railings rising from flower beds separate the café forecourt from the surround of the swimming pool. In addition to the railings, which have black painted frames and main uprights and yellow vertical struts, colour has been used boldly on the cubicle doors which are jasmine yellow alternating with turquoise blue, each in groups of four. The lettering over the main entrance was designed by the architect, yellow letters with blue edges, and the signs over the men's and women's doors black on a yellow ground. The lettering on the café is in bright vermillion with narrow white trellis across the letters. Hardwood sight screens have been added to the changing rooms, a detail of which is given on the opposite page.



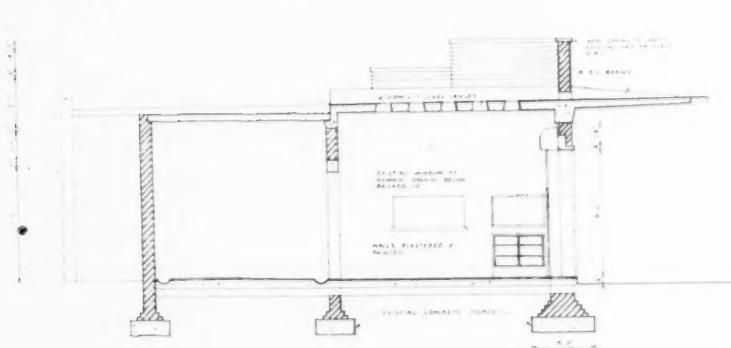
2. The Cafe. The building itself is original. The terrace is new. The iron railing is painted black and yellow (note similar railing on boundary wall).



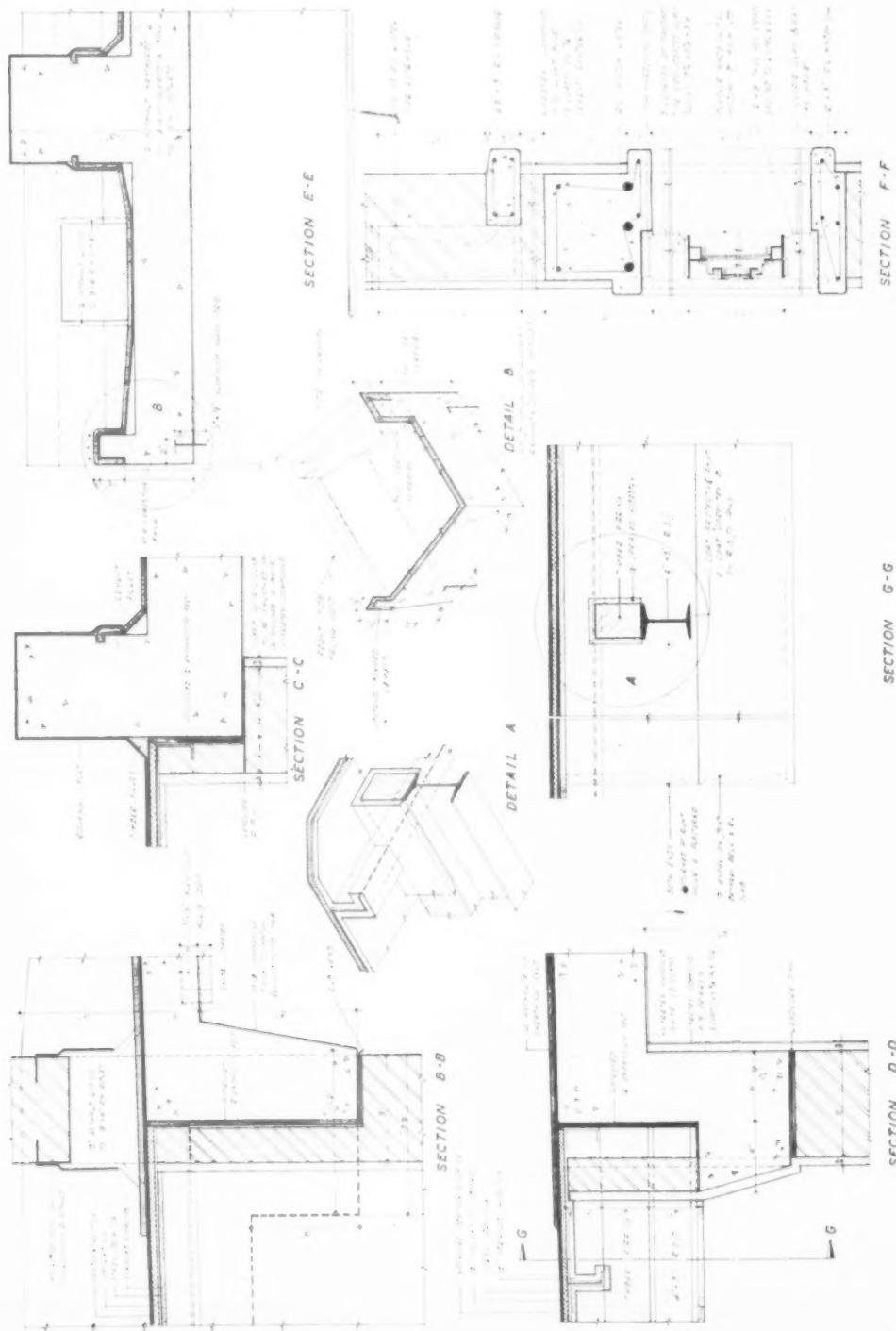
ELEVATION OF MAIN ENTRANCE

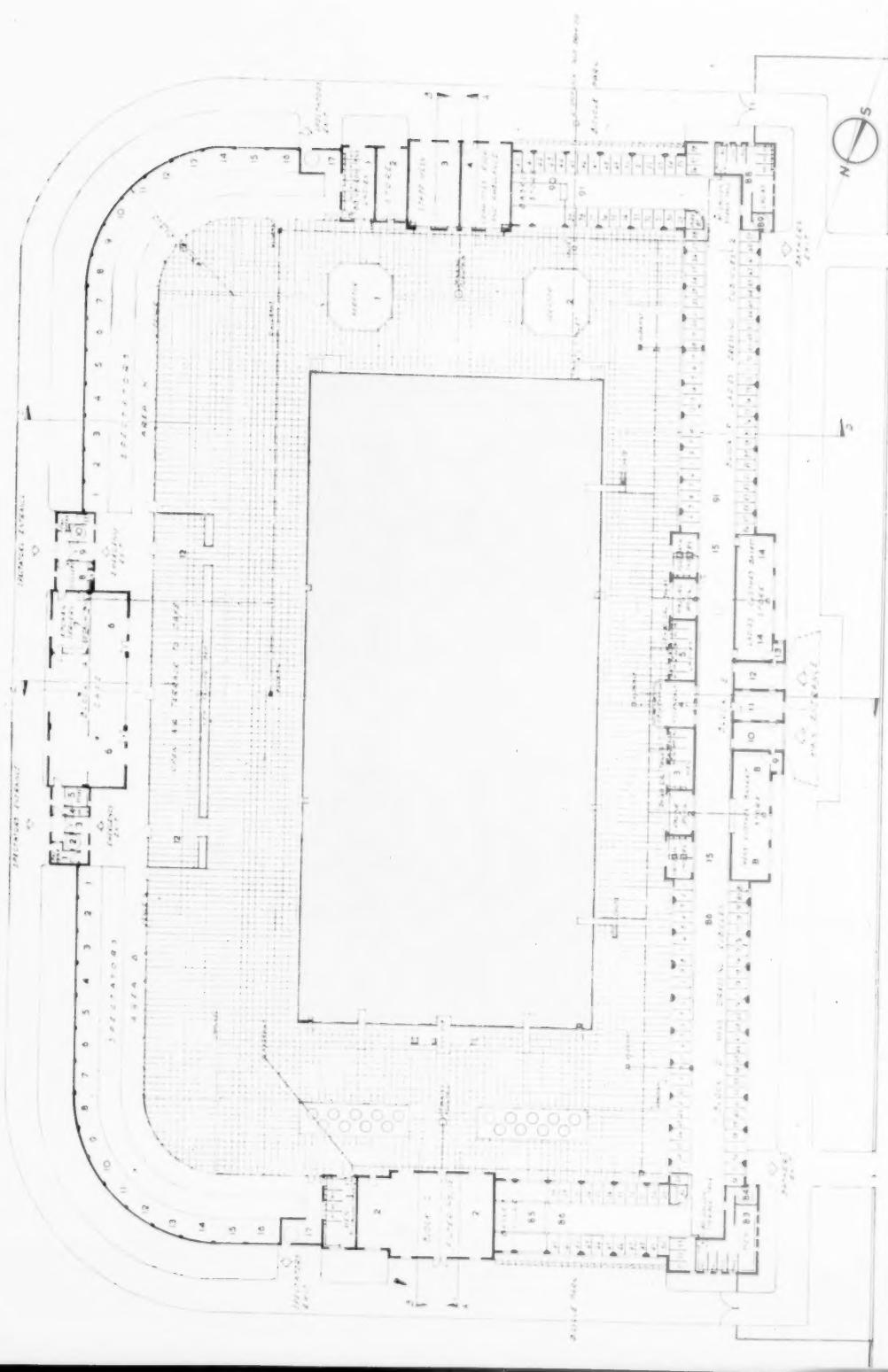


PLAN



SECTION AA



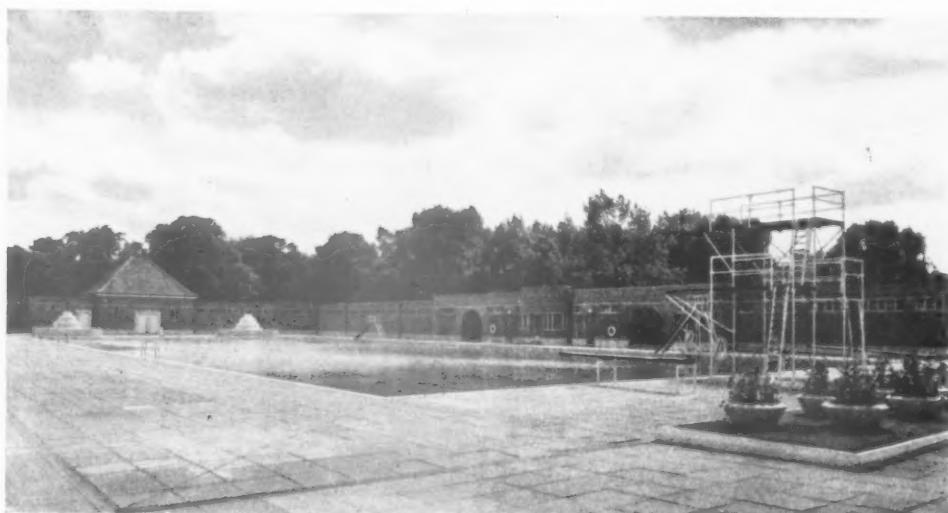




Perspective of new main entrance by J. B. Cameron

VICTORIA PARK LIDO, BETHNAL GREEN, E.3.  
 (FOR THE PARKS DEPARTMENT, LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL)  
 ARCHITECT : S. P. JORDAN, A.R.I.B.A., M.S.I.A., Dip.T.P.  
 ASSISTANT ARCHITECT : J. B. CAMERON, A.R.I.B.A.  
 QUANTITY SURVEYORS : J. J. STEVENS & SON.  
 GENERAL CONTRACTORS : PATMAN & FOTHERINGHAM LTD.  
 Sub-Contractors & Suppliers : Anti-condensation treatment (sprayed asbestos) : Turners Asbestos Cement Co. Ltd. Artificial Stone : Kendell's Stone & Paving Co. Ltd. Asphalt : Ragusa Asphalt Paving Co. Ltd. Glazier : J. B. Robinson. Electrical : W. Simmons & Co. (Stratford) Ltd. Plasterers : J. H. Jenner & Co. Ltd. Plumbers : A. Grant & Sons. Railings : Universal Metal Furring & Lathing Co. Ltd. Reinforcement : Twisteel Reinforcement Ltd. Roller Grilles :

Dennison, Kett & Co. Ltd. Roofing : Ruberoid Co. Ltd. Roofing Tiles : W. Creighton & Co. Ltd. Special Lettering : J. Akers Ltd. Terrazzo Finishes and Waterproofing to Bath : Jaconello Ltd. Turnstiles : Sir W. H. Bailey & Co. Ltd. Windows : Williams & Williams Ltd. Anti-condensation treatment ("Corktex") : Thos. Parsons & Sons Ltd. Anti-freeze Compound : Tretol Ltd. Bicycle Stands : Stelcon (Industrial Floors) Ltd. Bricks : J. J. Bassett & Co. Ltd. Door Furniture : Stedall & Company Ltd. Electric Clocks : English Clock Systems Ltd. (Smiths). Lockers : Constructors Ltd. Paints : Imperial Chemical Industries Ltd. Paints : International Paints Ltd. Paving : Liverpool Artificial Stone Co. Ltd. Roof Lights : Lenscrete Ltd. Sight Screens : Piggott Bros. & Co. Ltd. Treatment to Aerators and other surfaces : Cementone Products. Vitretex Compound Treatment to canopy and entrance walls : Vitretex (England) Ltd. Wall Tiles : Camden Tile & Mosaic Co. Ltd.



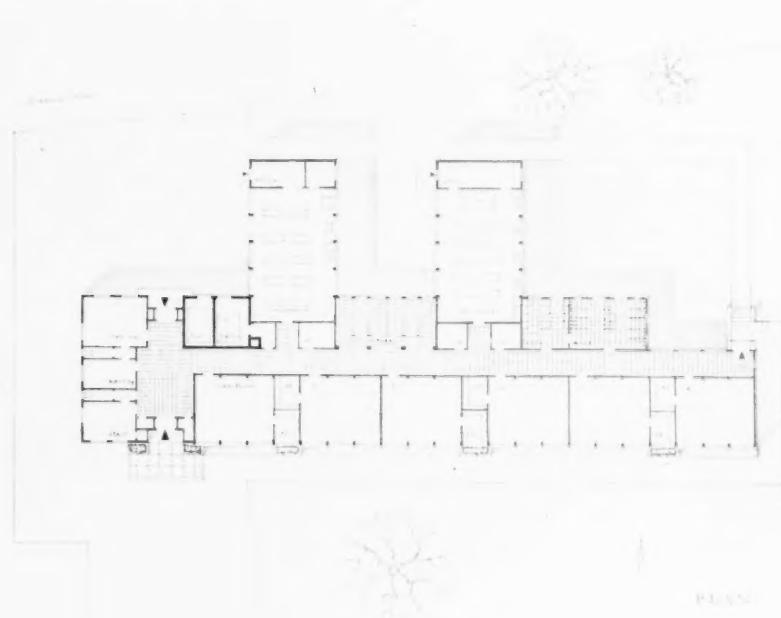
3. General view of pool. The buildings in the background are part of the original scheme. The diving board: vertical supports, yellow; stringers, white; handrails and diagonals, blue; the metal window frames are yellow.

## Erith County Grammar School: Additional Accommodation at "The Oaks," Belvedere, Kent

ARCHITECT: P. J. B. HARLAND, F.R.I.B.A., A.I.L.A., A.A.D.I.P.

ASSOCIATE ARCHITECT: R. LOVELL PHILLIPS, A.R.I.B.A., A.A.D.I.P.

In collaboration with S. H. LOWETH, F.S.A., F.R.I.B.A., County Architect, Kent



THE original school buildings have been shared in the past with the Erith Technical College, and great difficulty has been experienced in finding new sites for extensions to relieve the overcrowded accommodation of both institutions.

**Site.**—In 1948 a site was selected about a quarter-mile distant known as "The Oaks." The school playing fields and the main Erith Road separate the two properties.

**Planning.**—Accommodation was required for 240 students in six classrooms of about 500 sq. ft. each and two practical rooms of about 960 sq. ft. each, with the usual ancillaries

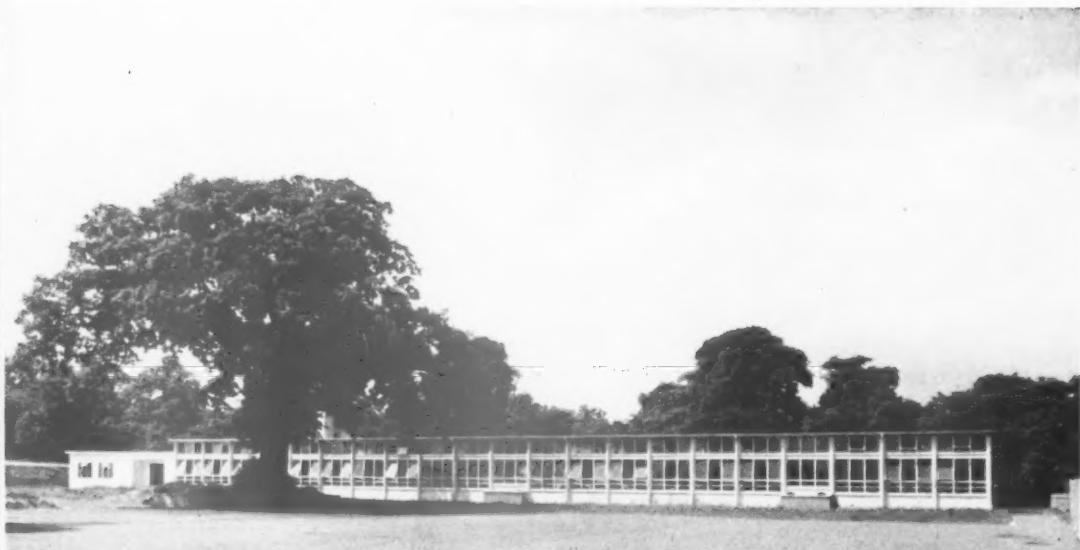
of stores, cloakrooms, etc. The building to be planned so that it might be altered and extended to provide four classrooms and four practical rooms should future policy decide.

No new Assembly Hall was required, as the students continue to use that in the old school buildings as well as the Canteen.

**Construction.**—The building is constructed in the SECO unit construction, the main characteristic of which is the use throughout of the wall panel and roof slab. The SECO wall panel is a sandwich  $1\frac{1}{2}$  in. thick consisting of two sheets

of asbestos cement integrally bonded to a rigid insulating core of wood-wool cement. The panel is a monolithic unit of great strength and having a thermal insulation value of U-0.29. The roof slab is similar in construction to the wall panel but is reinforced,  $2\frac{1}{4}$  in. thick, and has a U value of 0.23.

The classroom blocks have structural frames consisting of precast reinforced concrete columns and light steel lattice beams, the resulting portals being connected by light steel ties. This frame is then clad with wall panels and roofing as described above, the rigidity of



*Main elevation facing south showing classrooms with playground in foreground*



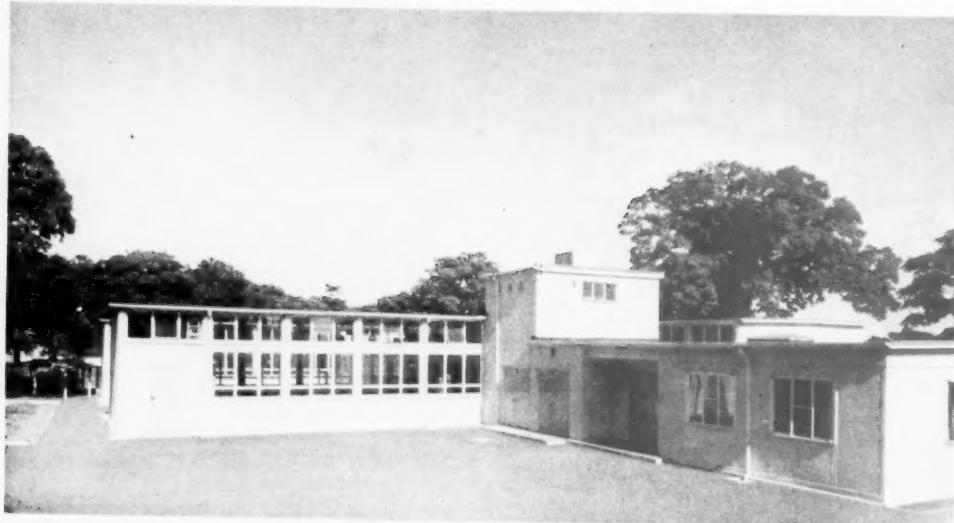
*Detail of south elevation*

which dispenses with the necessity for any additional bracing. In the remaining portions of the building the compressive strength of the wall panels is utilized, the walls supporting the weight of the roof without the aid of any structural frame.

The roof slabs are supported by light steel lattice beams which are bolted to light lattice perimeter beams, which in turn distribute the roof load uniformly along the external and spine walls. The roofing is of two-layer bituminous felt.

Ceilings to the office and cloakroom blocks are of  $\frac{1}{2}$  in. insulating board fixed to the undersides of the lattice beams by the Anderson wedge method.

Windows throughout are metal casements, those in the classrooms



**Main elevation from South-east, showing school entrance**

being purpose-made of medium universal section, while those in the remaining portions of the building are of standard domestic type in timber subframes.

**Finishings.**—Externally the walls and concrete columns are Secoharled and treated with two coats of

Snowcem coloured pink. The metal windows, guttering and R.W. pipes painted off-white. The external doors, where painted, grey. The main entrance doors are in Austrian oak. The brick flower boxes are in Dun-brick yellow stocks with artificial stone copings.

Internally, the floor finish generally is of 9in. by 9in. Accotiles tan marble and buff. The flush doors are painted terracotta with white frames.

**Engineering Services.**—The heating of the School is by means of cast-iron Hospital pattern radiators served



**Rear elevation from North-east, showing back entrance and practical room**



Entrance hall

from a cast-iron hot water boiler. The boiler is oil fired and serves the heating system and, indirectly through a calorifier, the domestic hot water service system.

The temperature of the heating flow is controlled by an external compensator and equipment work-

ing in conjunction with a three-way mixing valve on the heating flow which automatically readjusts the heating flow temperature to correspond with the fluctuation of the external temperature.

Electric immersion heaters are provided in the indirect hot water

storage cylinders for summer use when the oil fired boiler plant is not working.

An efficient electric lighting and power installation is provided, together with a low voltage system, in the Science Room and a combined bell system for class changing signals and for fire alarm warnings. Synchronous electric clocks are provided in all Classrooms and Work-rooms.

Consulting Engineers: J. Stinton, Jones and Partners.

Quantity Surveyor: C. E. Kenney, F.R.I.C.S.

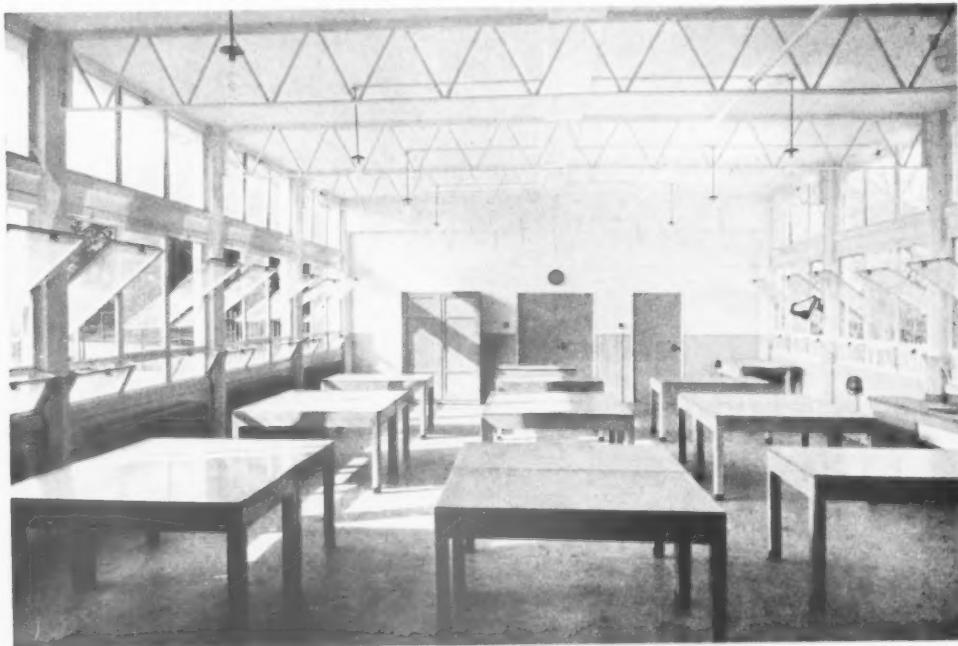
Clerk of Works: E. W. Prime.

General Contractors: Messrs. Uni-Seco Ltd.

#### "THE OAKS," BELVEDERE

Sub-contractors:

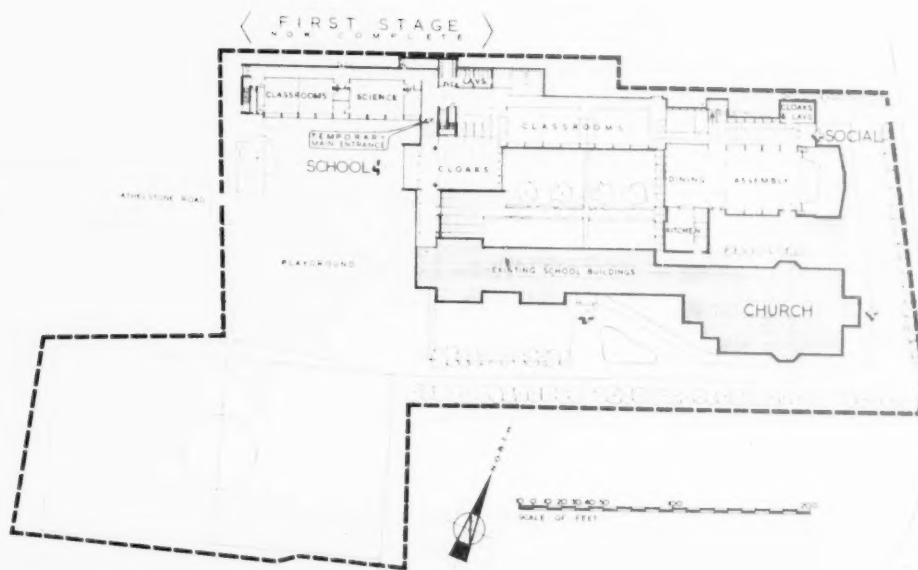
Cloakroom Equipment: Clark, Hunt & Co. Ltd. Cycle Sheds: Stelcon (Industrial Floors), Ltd. Electrical Installation: C. W. Gosling, Ltd. Excavation and Earth Moving: Booth & Chapman, Ltd. Fencing: B. Finch & Co., Ltd. Flooring: Armstrong Cork Co., Ltd. Gates: Bayliss, Jones & Bayliss, Ltd. Glazing: B. Finch & Co., Ltd. Heating and Hot Water Installations: G. N. Haden & Sons, Ltd. Ironmongery: Yannidis & Co., Ltd. Lettering: The Lettering Centre, Ltd., Dale's (Lettering), Ltd. Plumbing: Building Installations Ltd. Roofing: Macartney, Ltd. Sanitary Fittings: John Bolding & Sons, Ltd. Tarpaving and Tarmacadam and Curbs: A. C. W. Hobman & Co., Ltd. Windows: The Crittall Manufacturing Co. Ltd.



One of the practical rooms



The Salvatorian College: General view of new block



## New Classroom Block at The Salvatorian College, Harrow Weald, Mx.

ARCHITECTS : JOHN A. STRUBBE & PARTNERS, A. A.R.I.B.A.

THE Classroom Block forms the first stage in the extensive development of a Roman Catholic Secondary School being carried out to bring the accommodation in line with modern teaching requirements. This largely dictates the siting of the New Block, which consists of five classrooms and two science rooms with the attendant stores and lavatory accommodation.

The Main Entrance doors, complete with reinforced concrete surrounds, are completely free standing to facilitate their re-erection when the next stage of development is carried out. In a similar manner, the South-East ends of both the Ground and First

corridors are temporarily terminated by light glazed screens. The restricted site area calls for the use of two-storey construction which, in any case, reduces excessive corridor length.

### Planning

The First Floor classrooms are divided from the corridor by means of light wells which provide a sound barrier at this point and ensure a high level of illumination and even distribution of daylight throughout both Ground and First Floor classrooms. These light wells are roofed in by means of patent glazing.

Glare is considerably reduced on the

South side of the building by making use of horizontal hardwood louvres fixed to the window transoms. In conjunction with the roof slab overhang, the projection of the First Floor slab and the deep structural columns, the louvres prevent penetration of the direct sun rays to any appreciable extent.

### Construction

The main section of the building consists of a reinforced concrete frame, with a bay spacing of 12ft 4½in, supporting reinforced concrete floor and roof slabs. The First Floor corridor is cantilevered from the columns on the North side of the building. In-filling panels consist of glazing and brickwork, the external work being of cavity construction. The staircases, Lavatory Block and Ground Floor corridor are of load bearing brickwork.

A 2in thick vermiculite screed to the roof slab provides thermal insulation and, to some degree, reduces excessive expansion and contraction of the structure.

### Finishes

The walls of the Entrance Hall, Ground Floor corridor and staircase are of a fair-faced brickwork. The remainder are plastered with the exception of the Lavatory Block where glazed tiling extends to 7ft above floor level with fair-faced brickwork above.

Floor finishes to classrooms, science rooms and corridors are of thermoplastic tiles. That to the Lavatory Block is of heather-brown quarry tiles and to the staircases and entrance halls is of heather-brown quarry tiles inlaid in grey terrazzo.

A glass crucifix built into the wall at the end of the First Floor corridor consists of purpose-moulded amber glass blocks 2½in square in section and of random lengths.

The flint-lime facing bricks used both internally and externally are golden yellow in colour.

### Services

The hot water for both the low-pressure heating system and for domestic purposes is supplied by gas-fired boilers. The boiler house provides for the installation of a boiler to serve the further extensions of the school.

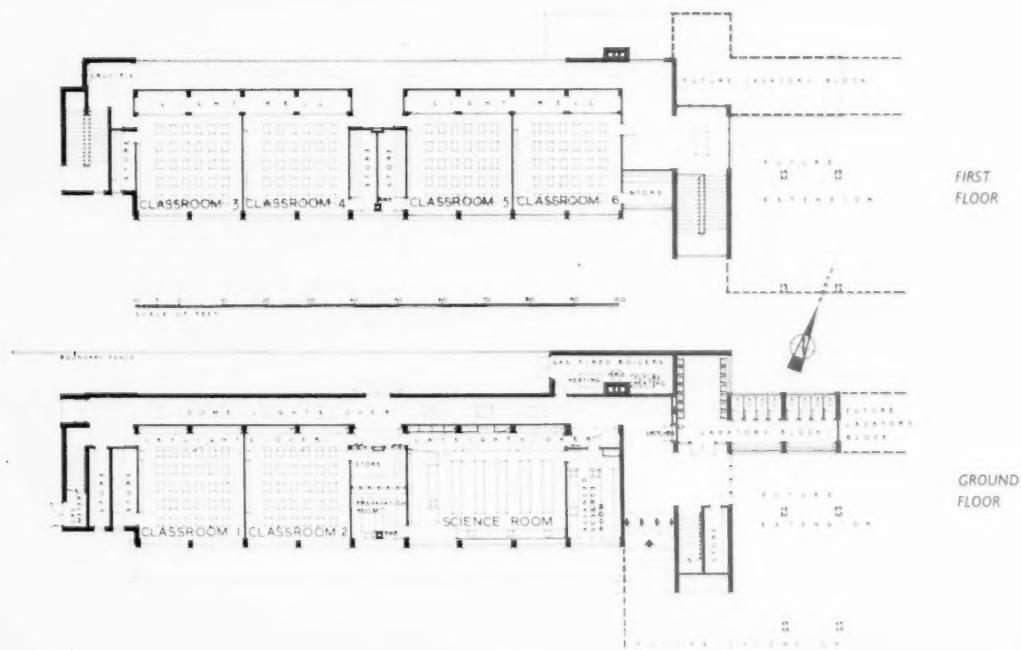
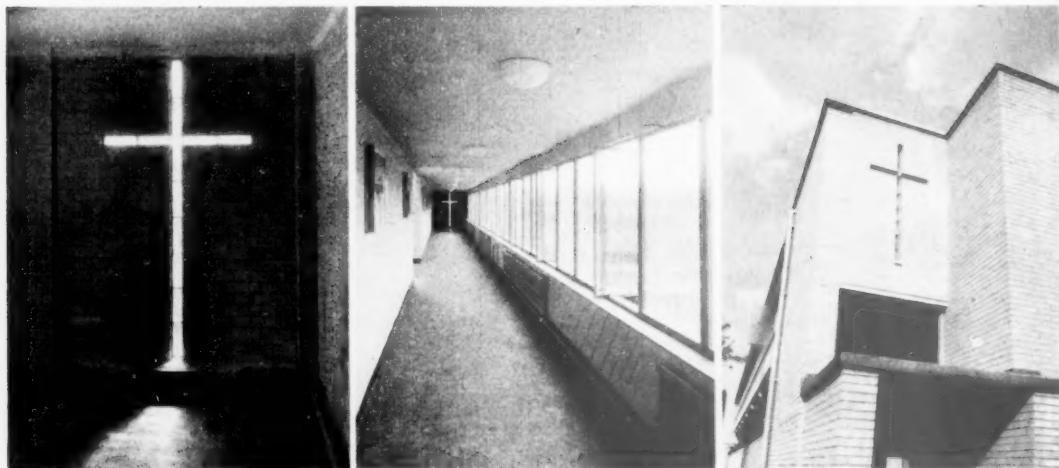
Detail of the temporary main entrance showing louvres

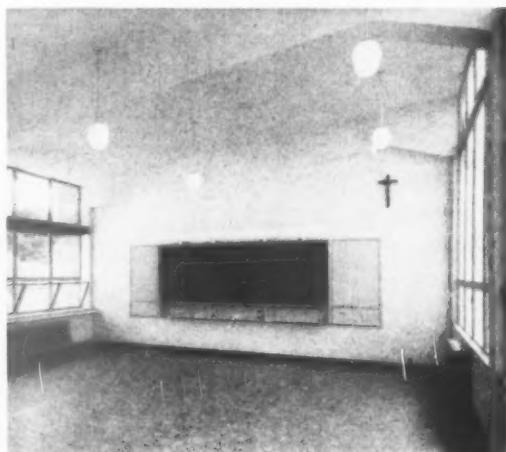
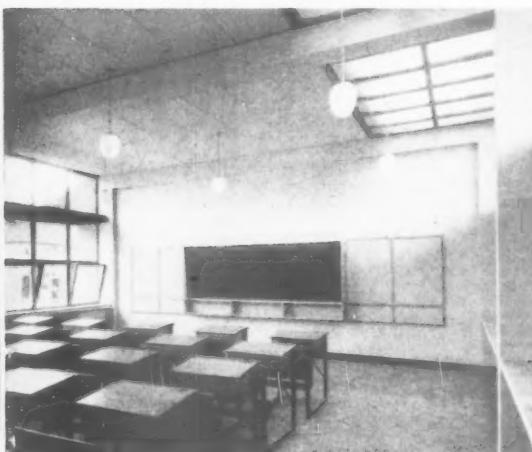
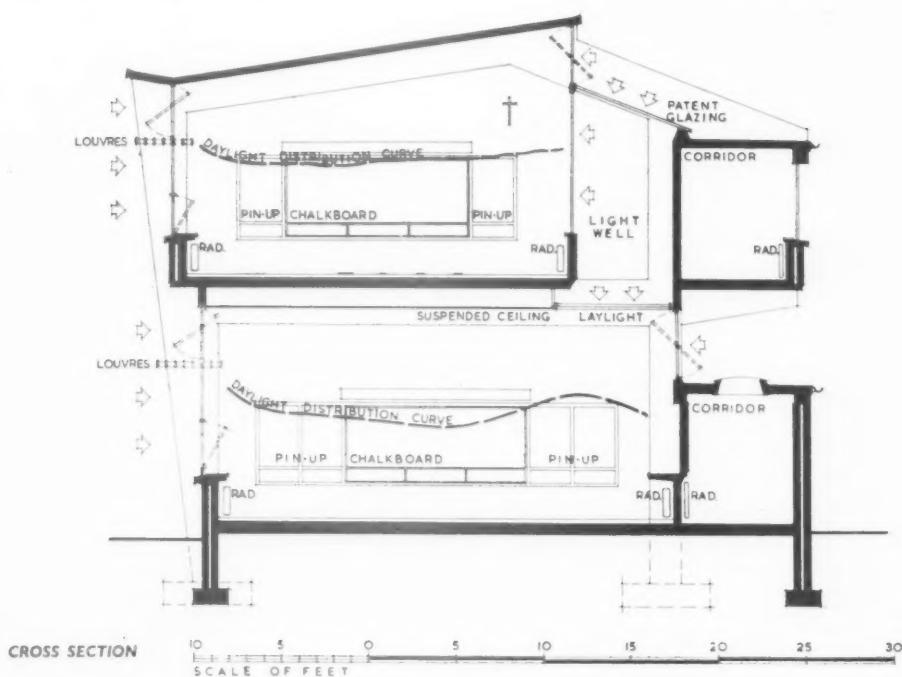


**New Classroom Block****Salvatorian College, Harrow Weald**

Architects : JOHN A. STRUBBE AND PARTNERS, A.R.I.B.A.

Quantity Surveyors : C. E. BALL AND PARTNERS





General Contractors : M. J. Gleeson (Contractors) Ltd.  
 Sub-contractors: Reinforced Concrete: Twisteel Ltd. Bricks: The Uxbridge Flint Brick Co. Ltd. Heating: Rosser & Russell Ltd. Electrical work: Barlow & Young Ltd. Asphalt Roofing: Durable Asphalt Co. Ltd. Metal Windows: W. James & Co. Ltd. Patent Glazing: Puttyless Glazing Co. Ltd. Thermo-plastic Floor Tiles: Gabriel Wade & English Ltd. Terrazzo with Inlaid Quarry Tiling: W. B. Simpson & Son Ltd. Suspended Ceilings: Anderson Construction Co. Ltd. Sanitary Fittings: Shanks & Co. Ltd. Glass Crucifix: James Powell & Sons (Whitefriars) Ltd. Concrete Fencing: Western Bros. Ltd. Ironmongery: Yannidis & Co. Ltd. Science Room Furniture and Main Entrance Doors: Ashby & Horner Ltd. Glass Panel above Main Entrance Doors: London Sand Blast & Decorative Glass Works Ltd.



Photos: Derby Evening Telegraph

## TWO DEMONSTRATION HOUSES for the County Borough of Derby Walthamstow Avenue, Mackworth Estate

THESE houses are of strictly traditional type, with 11in cavity walls, solid ground floors, timber joist first floors, tiled roof 30 deg pitch. The walls are faced with L.B.C. Cortex bricks, with Finlock gutters to eaves, and Langley's C.D.N. tiles on the roof. Windows are wooden casements.

The inner skin of the outer walls is composed of 4in breeze blocks plastered throughout. Ground floors are finished with brown pitchmastic laid by Permanite, Ltd., in living room and hall, and red quarries in kitchen.

An Ideal "Neo-fire" in the living room not only gives space heating to the living room but also to bedroom 1 by means of a hot water radiator, and provides all the domestic hot water required.

It is thought that the outbuildings in the position shown will form a useful screen between the houses and give

more privacy for "sitting out" immediately outside the living room. A small paved space behind the outbuildings will allow the dustbins to be hidden from the view of the house.

The dresser fitting between kitchen and living room has sliding glass doors to the top section, a serving hatch below, a table top, and drawers which open both ways, thus enabling obser-

vation and access from either room.

Provision is made for both gas and electricity in the kitchens, the tenant having the choice of either type of cooker and copper.

The plan has been designed to comply in as many respects as possible with the conditions laid down in "Houses 1952" as the comparison given below will show:

	Derby House.	"Houses 1952"	standard.
Living Room	225ft sup.	225ft sup.	
Working Kitchen	100 "	90 "	
Bedroom 1	139 "	135 "	
" 2	110 "	110 "	
" 3	70 "	70 "	
Aggregate living space	325 "	320 "	
Storage	51 "	50 "	(minimum)
Floor area of main building	836 sq ft	836 sq ft	
Floor area of outbuildings	51 "	51 "	
Total floor area	887 "	887 "	

The houses were erected by the Corporation Building Department, and all the joinery was made in the Department's workshops.

Work was commenced on June 9, and the keys for the completed houses were handed to the Borough Architect at 11 a.m. on Friday, June 27, after 16 working days.

The cost per house was £1,058, including fencing, drainage, paths and services. The number of site-man-hours was 1,435 per house.



BOROUGH ARCHITECT: THOS. W. EAST, F.R.I.B.A.

CHIEF HOUSING ARCHITECT: A. TAYLOR, L.R.I.B.A.

BUILDING MANAGER: G. HINDLE, M.I.C.W.

# Information Digest

## OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS

- **British Standard Codes of Practice.** Issued by British Standards Institution, 24-28, Victoria Street, S.W.1. Telephone: Abbey 3333.
- **British Standard Code of Practice C.P.305 (1952).** Sanitary appliances. Price 3s. post free.

The Council for Codes of Practice for Buildings has now issued in final form Code 305, "Sanitary Appliances." It was drawn up by a Committee convened on behalf of the Council by the Institution of Municipal Engineers, and is a revised version of the draft previously issued for comment. The Code deals with the selection and installation of sanitary appliances. (It does not include the supply of water to such appliances or the disposal of water after use in the appliances. These two allied subjects are dealt with respectively in Code 310, "Water Supply" and Code 304, "Soil and Waste Pipes above Ground.") Comprehensive descriptions are given of all commonly used appliances, distinction being made between those which are connected to the soil system and those connected to the waste system. A large section deals with such matters as grouping of appliances, ventilation of sanitary compartments, sound insulation and supports for appliances, together with specific recommendations as to the types, location and methods of installation of appliances in various kinds of buildings such as houses, flats, shops, schools, hospitals, offices, etc. A full list of relevant British Standards is included, and there are notes on such practical aspects as storage, siting, fixing and maintenance of sanitary appliances.

- **British Standard Code of Practice C.P.144.101. (1952).** Bitumen Felt Roof Coverings. Price 4s. post free.

The Council for Codes of Practice for Buildings has now issued in final form Code 144.101, "Bitumen Felt Roof Coverings." It was drawn up by a Committee convened on behalf of the Council by the Royal Institute of British Architects, and the present Code is a revision of the draft previously issued for comment. The Code deals with the laying of bitumen felt roofing on sloping and horizontal roofs constructed of timber, concrete and similar materials. It gives information on accessory materials used in conjunction with the felt roofing. Recommendations for the preparation of the base, the provision of associated details, the selection of the type of felt and number of layers required for various climatic conditions are included. Advice is given on the technique of fixing the felt roofing and on surface finishes. Diagrams illustrating the laying and arrangements for certain closely associated features such as gutters, drips and damp-proof courses are given.

- **British Standard 1876. 1952.** Automatic flushing cisterns for urinals. Price 2s. nett.

This British Standard has been issued in order to define the minimum performance requirements for automatic flushing cisterns of the type to which the supply of water is continuously maintained at a steady fixed rate for use in flushing urinals. Tests for performance of cisterns have been included irrespective of the actual type and dimensions of the siphonage device used, and no dimensions have been given except where considered essential to ensure the correct functioning and reasonable life of the appliance when installed. The specific size and shape of the water storage portion of the appliance has not been specified but the recommended capacity is given in relation to the duty it has to perform.

- **British Standard 1878. 1952.** Corrugated copper jointing strip for expansion joints. Price 2s. nett.

This Standard provides a specification for corrugated jointing strip manufactured from copper for use in expansion joints in buildings for the purpose of providing a weather-proof seal capable of accommodating movement between the

two sides of a joint or to break rigid continuity in structures for the purpose of sound insulation. The type of strip specified is not intended for use in large water-retaining structures nor for the slabs required to take wheeled vehicles.

- **British Standard 497. 1952.** Cast manhole covers, road gully gratings and frames. Price 5s. net.

The previous editions of this Standard were prepared primarily for use in connection with the post-war building programme. In deciding upon patterns to be included the need to facilitate mass production was the guiding factor. It has, however, been decided that the quality of material specified should be controlled by means of an adequate testing procedure. The Standard includes a range of covers for heavy duty applications and covers for medium duty using the "3-point" system of support. The circular type cover has been excluded as far as heavy duty applications are concerned. The Standard gives details of the various types of covers, together with tables of dimensions and in order to assist manufacturers to incorporate new ideas and improvements within the framework of the main dimensions, the minor dimensions have been deleted from the diagrams.

- **Ministry of Works Leaflets.** Published by H.M.S.O., York House, Kingsway, W.C.2. Price 3d. each.
- **Leaflet No. 26.** Making Concrete.

This new M.O.W. publication tells the man who does the work how to make consistently good concrete. The way to get the right proportions in a mix is explained in practical language with simple hints on determining the quantities of materials by volume, and the amount of water to add for mixing. A table is given of proportions by volume for various purposes based on one bag of cement. There are notes on mixing by hand and by mechanical means. Notes are given, also, on the use of properly graded aggregates, and the importance of correctly placing, compacting and curing the concrete. The Ministry's "Advisory Leaflets" are designed mainly to meet the needs of the small builder, clerk of works, foreman and craftsman. Information is given in a practical form and simple language about the results of research and the latest development in building practice.

- **Leaflet No. 27.** Rendering outside wall.

This leaflet gives guidance on precautions to be taken in choosing a rendering, on the mix to use and the method of application in order to avoid failure by cracking or separation from the background. There are notes on types of background and on the preparatory work needed. The leaflet gives practical hints on the suitability of various renderings for different purposes: pebble-dash, roughcast, smooth floated finish, textured and scraped finishes, and the machine applied renderings. A table is included showing the mix proportions to be used on "strong" and "weak" backgrounds in exposed and sheltered positions.

- **Housing and Town and Country Planning.** Bulletin No. 6 Housing in the Tropics. Published by the United Nations Organization. Issued by H.M.S.O., York House, Kingsway, W.C.2. Price 1½ dollars.

The study of the problem of low cost housing in tropical areas was recommended by the United Nations Social Commission at its second session. This bulletin is part of the study and is intended for the use of government services, architects and town planners, etc. It states the problem of tropical housing in less developed areas and indicates the main lines along which a solution might be found. Further publications will be issued in due course in the form of technical pamphlets, etc. The present publication includes a survey of housing in the tropics and a number of special articles including Design and Construction in the tropics by G. Anthony Atkinson of the Building Research Station, and The Economics of Rural Tropical Housing, by Roy J.

Burroughs, and a number of other articles on such subjects as sanitation in tropical areas, aided self-help and its application to the housing of tropical peoples, together with a number of interesting case studies in aided self-help and a very comprehensive bibliography, together with abstracts from publications throughout the world relating to the problem of housing in tropical areas. This section of the publication is very fully indexed and referenced and in itself is a valuable contribution to the literature on the subject.

#### PROFESSIONAL AND TRADE ASSOCIATION PUBLICATIONS

- **The Journal of the Plymouth Branch, Devon and Cornwall Architectural Society.** Published by Plymouth Branch Devon and Cornwall Architectural Society, 13, Halwell Street, Plymouth. Price 1/-.

Volume 1, No. 2, April, 1952, issue of this journal includes articles on the new Plymouth. This is a sensible critical article accompanied by photographs and drawings commenting on the street architecture of Plymouth and comparing the design of such things as street lamps, signs, etc., in the new Plymouth with those used at the South Bank Exhibition, and showing very clearly the shortcomings of the Plymouth version of the items in question. Other articles include a short review of the new Dolcis store by Ellis Somake, a note on West Country churches, and notes on student competitions, together with the usual report of the Society affairs.

- **Journal of the Bristol Society of Architects.** Published by the Bristol Society of Architects, 25, Gt. George St., Bristol 1. Price 1/-.

The main item in the February, 1952, issue of this journal is a review of two suburbs of Bristol, St. Michael's Hill and Kingsdown. This is illustrated by a number of photographs and sketches rather in the Architectural Review townscape manner. The Society notes and notices and library notes are also included.

- **Z.D.A. Publications.** Issued by Zinc Development Association Lincoln House, Turf St., Oxford. Oxford 47988. Free.

This issue of the Zinc Bulletin contains an interesting account of galvanizing of steel pylons with some excellent photographs of Swiss and Danish pylons which are notable for their elegant design. It also includes the information Sheet No. 9 which, in this instance, deals with the use of Zinc for the covering of door and porch hoods.

#### Z.D.A. Abstracts Nos. 2, 3, 4 and 5.

The Z.D.A. Library covers world literature on the uses of zinc and its products. It is maintained by careful examination of a great number of technical journals from all over the world. The Z.D.A. Abstracts present each month a review of recent technical literature on zinc and its products together with other material of interest. The purpose of each abstract is to tell the general reader what the original is about and to enable the specialist to estimate its importance. Important new information is included where possible.

- **Gas Council Publications.** Issued by the Gas Council, 1, Grosvenor Place, London, S.W.1. Sloane 4554. Cafés, Tea rooms and Milk bars. Price 2/-.

This is the fifth in a series of booklets on the commercial uses of gas and describes a variety of gas-fired appliances suitable for tea rooms and cafés, and also gives special attention to the planning of the accommodation so that the best use may be made of the space available. The publication will be of particular interest to architects concerned with the catering trades, as it is well illustrated with plans and technical layouts and size schedules, and has a useful collection of photographic illustrations.

#### Gas in the Service of Cremation.

This leaflet gives details of the use of gas in crematoria, and points out that 106 of the 130 cremators used in Great Britain are gas heated.

- **Building Industry Distributors Bulletin No. 9.** Published by Building Industry Distributors, 52, 54, High Holborn, London, W.C.1. Chancery 77727. Free.

The March issue of the Bulletin contains reports of various conferences and other activities of the organization, together with statements on building materials made by Members of Parliament and Ministers. Various notes cover such items as the latest British Standard Institution publications, Compensation for Loss of Employment, etc.

- **Kitchen Planning.** Issued by E.J.M.A., Sackville House, 40, Piccadilly, W.1. Regent 4448. Free.

This pamphlet has been issued to local authorities with a view to offering suggestions in relation to the use of E.J.M.A. standard kitchen units in new houses and flats. Three designs for kitchens incorporating these fittings are illustrated with plans and sections and perspectives, with detailed schedules of the units recommended.

- **Coal Utilisation Council Annual Report 1951.** Issued by the Coal Utilisation Council, 3, Upper Belgrave Street, London, S.W.1. Free.

This publication is a report of the work of the Council for the year 1951 and gives details of the expansion of the C.U.C. activities including their showroom and service scheme for making known the merits of the various types of fittings recommended by the Council, the training scheme by which the staffs of appliance distributors and coal merchants are given instruction on modern appliances and suitable fuels, and other activities such as publications, publicity films and collaboration with other organizations. One of the new developments is the technical diploma for coal merchants.

- **Floor and floor finishes in relation to embedded panels.** Issued by the Invisible Panel Warming Association, 1, Grand Buildings, Trafalgar Square, London, W.C.2. Whitehall 4060. Free.

This publication outlines the merits of floor and ceiling panel heating systems and discusses the various floor finishes suitable where floor panel heating is employed. The important question of screeding, insulation and expansion joints are dealt with and the publication includes several drawings showing recommended construction details. A list of materials is included giving details of the type of bedding, thermal conductivity and other useful information.

- **Royal Commission on the Taxation of Profits and Income, 1952.** Issued by the Federation of British Industries, 21, Tothill Street, London, S.W.1. Price 14/-.

This memorandum is the latest of four published documents which together embody the Federation's view on Taxation policy as it affects British Industry. The present document does not deal with the matters already covered by the previous publications and should be read in conjunction with them. The document has been presented as evidence to the Royal Commission on Taxation of Profits and Income.

- **Annual Report for 1951.** Issued by the British Rubber Development Board, Market Buildings, Mark Lane, London, E.C.3. Mansion House 93834. Free.

This report covers the activities of the British Rubber Development Board during the year 1951, and the items of particular interest include the increased use of rubber in road construction, the campaign to expand the demand for latex foam and rubber in building, and the distribution of publications and technical films on rubber. The report also includes the Board's annual accounts.

#### TRADE PUBLICATIONS

- **Stonite Wall Renderings.** Issued by Callow & Keppich Ltd., Shiphams Gorge, Cheddar, Somerset. Cheddar 214. Free.

The two standard leaflets prepared by Messrs. Callow & Keppich deal with their renderings which use the lime produced from mountain limestone in Cheddar. The mix employed is in accordance with continental practice and the

# Focus on Floors

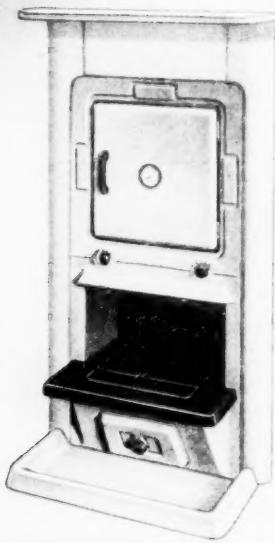


In selecting the floor finishes for a department store, it is important that future development should be kept in mind. Original floor finishes which have proved quite satisfactory for the first few years of a building's life, have been known to fail following a rearrangement of store layout. Altered conditions of customer circulation have imposed a degree of wear much greater than that for which provision was originally made. The choice of floor finishes may be appreciably affected by looking ahead in this way. Where long term development can be visualised, it may be economical to use, in certain locations, harder wearing finishes than are immediately required. On the other hand, when forward planning cannot go beyond the near future, it may be desirable to select materials with a shorter life, making provision for possible replacements at a later date should internal rearrangement make this necessary. In this sphere, as in many others, the happiest solution to a given problem can be achieved by close collaboration between those responsible for store-planning and the Semtex Comprehensive Flooring Service. This Service exists to advise on floor finishes generally as well as to supply, install and, where required, maintain in good condition, any of the following floor surfacings:— SEMASTIC DECORATIVE TILES • VINYL TILES • DUNLOP RUBBER FLOORS • DESIGNED LINOLEUM • FLEXIMERS • CORK, CERAMIC AND TERRAZZO TILES.

**SEMTEX LTD**  
A DUNLOP COMPANY  
COMPREHENSIVE FLOORING SERVICE

# Domestic EFFICIENCY

APPROVED BY THE MINISTRY OF FUEL  
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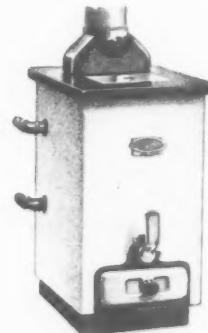
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recommendations of the Building Research Station, and the company claim that renderings carried out in Stonite materials are free from cracking, maintain their colour and do not show the failures found with normal renderings. The leaflet includes a number of useful details showing recommended treatments for rendered wall at cill, coping and parapet level. Details are given of the recommended mix, the proper method of application and standard specification notes. B.R.S. reports on Stonite and the tests carried out on the material are also included. Details are given concerning the Stonite spatter finish which is now being widely used and can be obtained in a variety of colours. The Stonite technical service is available free to interested persons.

**Colt Houses.** Issued by W. H. Colt & Son Ltd., Betherston, Ashford Kent. Telephone 216. Free.

Messrs. Colts are erecting, in conjunction with the Ministry of Housing, a pair of their timber houses suitable for local authority building schemes, and the general type of construction with plans, room sizes and photographs are shown in this brochure. Colt houses are constructed entirely of timber and many were built before the war and have given excellent service. The firm claim that the life of a house of this sort is as long as any other form of construction, and this claim is borne out by the experience of other countries such as the United States and Sweden, where many timber houses have been erected. They also claim that the insulation of a timber house is considerably higher than normal construction, and this is equally borne out by experience in other countries. One prototype house now being erected is being furnished by Messrs. Heal & Son, Ltd., to illustrate the possibility of furnishing a small house in inexpensive contemporary furniture of good design.

**Surfacing of Concrete Floors.** Issued by the Metropolitan Construction Co., Ltd., 66, Queen Street, London, E.C.4. City 1488. Free.

This brochure illustrates the Mettexture process of preparing an existing concrete floor for a new topping. The process consists of a mechanical operation which removes the top surface of the concrete to a determined depth more quickly and accurately than possible by hand. Both large and small areas can be treated in this way and although no costs are given the contractors claim that the cost is only a very few shillings a square yard.

**Coloured Glazed Stoneware Plaques.** Issued by Doulton & Co. Ltd., Doulton House, Albert Embankment, London, S.E.1. Reliance 1241. Free.

This leaflet has been designed to give some information concerning the origin, manufacture and application of the art of making coloured glazed stoneware plaques, of which many are produced by this Company, including the well-known blue plaques used by the L.C.C. to mark buildings in London with associations connected with famous people.

**Fabriguard.** Issued by Hangers Paints Ltd., Stoneferry Works, Hull. Free.

This leaflet gives details of a new emulsion plastic paint which the makers claim can be used on new plaster, cement, asbestos cement or brickwork for indoor or exterior surfaces. It can also be scrubbed 24 hours after application and dries in 4 hours. It is applied with an ordinary distemper brush and covers 50-60 yards per gallon. The colour range is limited but the material appears to have considerable application.

**Hygiaphone.** Issued by Hygiaphone Ltd., 140-142, Long Acre, London, W.C.2. Temple Bar 8645-7. Free.

This publication describes and illustrates the Hygiaphone fitting which has been designed as a protective transparent sound transmitting screen for installation in booking offices, enquiry desks and similar places. It enables conversation to take place without the danger of the spread of infection, and is being used widely in railway stations, hospitals and other public buildings. The brochure includes an itemized drawing of the fittings and current prices.

**Warerite.** Issued by Warerite Ltd., 18, Grosvenor Gardens, London, S.W.1. Sloane 0898. Free.

This pamphlet shows the application of Warerite laminated plastics in crews quarters of ships where its use is of particular value in view of the ease of cleaning, the fireproof nature of the material and its durability. The sheets are obtainable in a variety of permanent colours and patterns.

**The Isolation of Vibration and Noise.** Issued by W. Christie and Grey Limited, 4, Lloyds Avenue, London, E.C.3. Royal 7371. Free.

The problem of Isolating machinery to avoid structure-born vibration, is one of considerable importance in modern industrial building, and this brochure gives details of the various types of insulators made by W. Christie & Grey Ltd., who specialize in this field. The booklet is well illustrated by means of photographs and scale drawings, and should be of considerable interest to architects dealing with buildings incorporating heavy and noisy plant and machinery.

**Patent Glazing.** Issued by W. H. Heywood & Co., Ltd., Bayhall Works, Huddersfield. Free.

Heywoods have been well-known in the patent glazing industry for more than 60 years and this catalogue is the first they have produced since the war. It covers the wide range of applications of their various types of patent glazing and gives details of the various bar sections, typical fixing details and excellent large photographs of typical installations. The catalogue also includes details of the Heywood system of structural insulation and shows its application and gives details of fixings. The publication is extremely well produced and contains a great deal of valuable technical information.

**MISCELLANEOUS**

**The New Coventry Cathedral.** By the Provost of Coventry. Issued by the Coventry Cathedral Reconstruction Committee. Address and price not given.

This excellent little booklet describes the design of the new Coventry Cathedral in some detail and is very fully illustrated with photographs of the model of the latest scheme, together with reproductions of the architect's drawings in black and white and colour. The descriptions included are largely made up from information provided by the Architect, Basil Spence, and will be of great assistance in helping the layman to understand the design of the new Cathedral, and the way in which the Architect conceived the design. It is hoped that this excellent publication will have a wide circulation for it can do a great deal of good in assisting the general public toward a fuller understanding of the importance of this great project.

**The New Towns and the case for them.** By Lord Beveridge. Published by the University of London Press Ltd., Little Paul's House, Warwick Square, London, E.C.4. Price 2/-.

Lord Beveridge presented the text of this booklet as a lecture at the London University in December, 1951, and it has now been published on behalf of the Town and Country Planning Association. Its 25 pages set out the most convincing case for the new towns and the appendix deals with some of the special problems in connection with the towns under construction. Lord Beveridge has been associated with the new towns as chairman of one of the Development Corporations and his wide knowledge of the subject makes this an important publication.

**How to draw perspectives to scale.** By W. H. Fuller. Published by the Studio Ltd., 56, Chandos Place, London, W.C.2. Price 3s.

Students will probably find this little booklet of assistance to them as it explains the elementary rules in relation to the preparation of mechanical perspective drawings. The author outlines the general principles and then gives in straightforward language the main rules concerning the setting up of perspective drawings by different means. Other chapters deal with instruments, correcting freehand sketches and various practical considerations. Unfortunately the examples

chosen to illustrate the book are not always the best, but the simple way in which the information has been set out has much to commend it.

● **Frank Lloyd Wright.** 60 Years of Living Architecture. Edited by Verner Moser. Published by Werk, Verlag Buchdruckerei Winterthur A.G., Winterthur. Price 28s.

Verner Moser was a pupil of Frank Lloyd Wright and has been a lifelong friend. He is also the architect of the 1951 Frank Lloyd Wright Exhibition which has already been seen in Italy, Switzerland and France, but which is unlikely to reach this country. This book covers the past 60 years of Wright's architectural activity and although most of the material has been published in England and America before, the idea of incorporating it in one publication as a survey of Wright's life work is a good one. The main text is unfortunately all in German and has been written by Moser and others, including some of Wright's clients, but the photographs and drawings are all provided with English captions which enable the reader to follow the general line of thought reasonably well. The illustrations are magnificent both in black and white and colour, and the only comment one must make is that it is unfortunate that Falling Water should be illustrated only by means of coloured sketches, and not by photographs of the finished building which in fact looks even more dramatic than the coloured drawing suggests. The book is set out and printed in the way one expects of Swiss publications, but it is unfortunate that the publication has not been given a stiff cover as a book of this importance surely warrants the final finishing touch of a good cover.

#### ALSO RECEIVED

**The Professional Classes Aid Council. Annual Report 1951-52.** Issued by the Professional Classes Aid Council, 20, Camden Hill Square, London, W.8. Free.

**1952 Addendum to the British Sawmilling Classification of Timbers.** Published by the National Sawmilling Association, 14, New Bridge Street, London, E.C.4. Price 2s 6d post free.

**How the Money went round in 1951. An explanation of the financial results of The Blue Circle Group.** Published by the Associated Portland Cement Manufacturers Ltd. Address not given. Free.

**Atlas Fluorescent Lighting.** Published by Thorn Electrical Industries Ltd., 105, Judd Street, London, W.C.1. Free.

**Stramit Advertiser.** Published by Stramit Boards Ltd., Cowley Peachey, Uxbridge, Middlesex. Free.

**Vickers Overseas News.** Issued by Vickers Ltd., Vickers House, Broadway, Westminster, London, S.W.1. Free.

**Facing Bricks.** Issued by the Ibstock Brick & Tile Co., Ltd., Ibstock near Leicester, Ibstock 391, London—L.M.R. Goods Depot, Wright's Lane, Kensington, W.8. Western 1281. Free.

**Rawiplug Fixing Devices.** Issued by Rawiplug Co., Ltd., Rawiplug House, Cromwell Road, London, S.W.7. Publisher 8111. Free.

**G.E.C. Street Lighting Equipment.** Issued by The General Electric Co., Ltd., Magnet House, Kingsway, London, W.C.2. Temple Bar 8000. Free.

**Aero Research Technical Notes.** Bulletin Nos. 113 and 115, Issued by The Technical Service Department, Aero Research Ltd., Duxford, Cambridge. Sawston 187. Free.

**Ad Rem. No. 3. Spring 1952.** The House Magazine of The Butterley Company Ltd., Ripley, Derby. Ripley 411. 20, Ashley Place, Victoria, S.W.1. Victoria 8023 45. Free.

**Effluent Purification.** Published by Monsanto Chemicals Ltd., Department of Industrial and Public Relations, Allington House, Allington Street, London, S.W.1. Free.

**Chaseaside Shovel.** Issued by the Chaseaside Engineering Co., Ltd., Station Works, Hertford, Herts. Hertford 3113. Free.

**Kimoloboard. The Fireproof Paneling.** Issued by Cellactite & British Uralite Ltd., Cellactite House, Whitehall Place, Gravesend, Kent. Gravesend 4911. Free.

**Betonac Steel Concrete.** Issued by The Cementation Co., Ltd., and Quickset Water Sealers Ltd., 39 and 54, Victoria Street, Westminster, London, S.W.1., and Bentley Works, Doncaster, England. Free.

**Volcano Heaters.** Issued by Volcano Heaters, 53, Museum Street, High Holborn, London, W.C.1. Chancery 4517. Free.

**New Methods and Machines.** A digest of new developments. Vol. I, No. 6, June 1952. Issued by Information Division, Mutual Security Agency, 1, Grosvenor Square, London, W.1. Also Vol. I, No. 7, July 1952. Free.

**Servicing The Moulder.** Anglo-American Council on Productivity, (U.K. Section), 21, Tothill Street, London, S.W.1. Whitehall 1671. Free.

**Bygglitteratur.** Building Abstract Service. March, April, 1952. Published by Swedish Building Literature, Sturegatan 20, Stockholm. Subscription rate for 6 numbers 20 Swedish Kr., plus postage.

**Duradio Enamel Paint.** Issued by The Walpamur Co., Ltd., Darwen and London.

## THE PLACE OF HOUSING IN TOWN & COUNTRY PLANNING

*A Summary of a paper presented by Sir George Pepler, C.B., P.P.T.P.I., Hon. A.R.I.B.A., to the Town and Country Planning Summer School at Bangor*

THE first thing to be said is that Housing has a very high place in Town and Country Planning. Indeed statutory town planning in Great Britain may be said to be in one sense the child of Housing. We can, therefore, perhaps epitomize the evolution of planning practice in this country, within the available legislative machinery, as "Born of Housing, developed in Amenity, and maturing on Industry."

At the risk of repeating the obvious, it is worth recalling the early evolution of town planning from housing. We are all aware of the frightful housing conditions brought about by the industrial revolution, during the last century,

and if anyone wants reminding, let him read again Charles Dickens' "Hard Times," published in 1854. Idealists such as Robert Owen (early nineteenth century) and Shaftesbury (1851) saw the red light, but it was not until important manufacturers, such as Cadbury (1879), Lever (1888), and, at the beginning of this century, Rowntree, Reckitt and Markham, entered the field, following the lead given by Sir Titus Salt (1853), that the importance of environment began to be fully understood.

These manufacturers cared for their workmen and appreciated that they would not only be more healthy, happy and contented, but also more efficient, if good homes were made available for them, in pleasant surroundings, and within easy reach of their workplaces. Hence, Bournville, Port Sunlight, Earswick, Hull Garden Suburb, and Woodlins Colliery Village. The work of these men showed that planning was practical politics, and by and large they were the backers of Ebenezer Howard, another practical idealist, who in "To-Morrow" (1898) expounded the idea of the Garden City.

Howard not only produced the idea but inspired practical men to found

"First Garden City Ltd." to build Letchworth (begun in 1903) and later was the founder of Welwyn Garden City. These were the pioneers, plus a Birmingham Group including Neville Chamberlain and John Nettlefold.

Thomas Adams was an early disciple of Howard's and further developed the community aspects of housing, as a branch of town planning. Concurrently, Sir Patrick Geddes expounded the theory that the object of planning must be to secure the right relationship between Folk, Work, and Place.

The essential point was that these factors formed an indivisible trinity: Folk must work in order to procure the means of livelihood, and the right place of the right kind, with the right environment, must be found for both workplaces and homes. Can one say, that any one member of an indivisible trinity comes first? I think not. My own impression is that, stimulated by Barlow and by the present emphasis on production, modern thought tends to give primary consideration to work, since unless one can earn one's living one cannot afford a home. Work is mainly a means to an end, an essential item of which is a good home, and this brings me back to Housing and its

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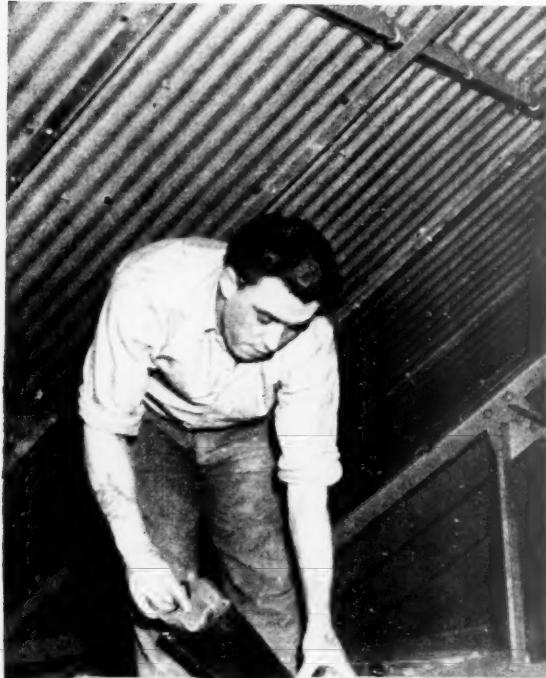
recorded their knowledge, and in this way have helped to make Newton Chambers the thriving industrial community it is today. *At Newton Chambers every present-day development rests on the sure foundation of hard-won experience.*

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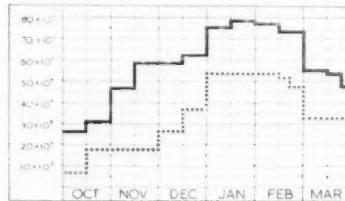
Lloyd  $\frac{1}{2}$  in. Insulation Board lined with Ardor aluminium foil has been fixed by the Lloyd Talon system to the underside of the south slope of its roof. This insulation has reduced the average rate of heat transmission through the roof from 1.13 to 0.15 B.Th.U's per sq. ft. per hour, and has meant a saving in fuel costs of as much as 42% during last winter.

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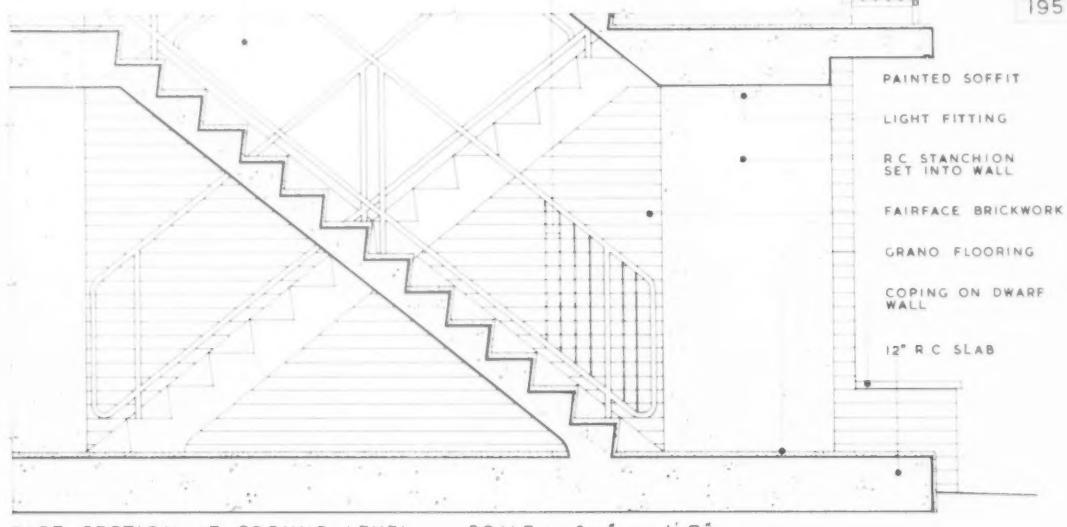
Harewood House, Hanover Square, London, W.1.

*A member of the Bowater Organisation*

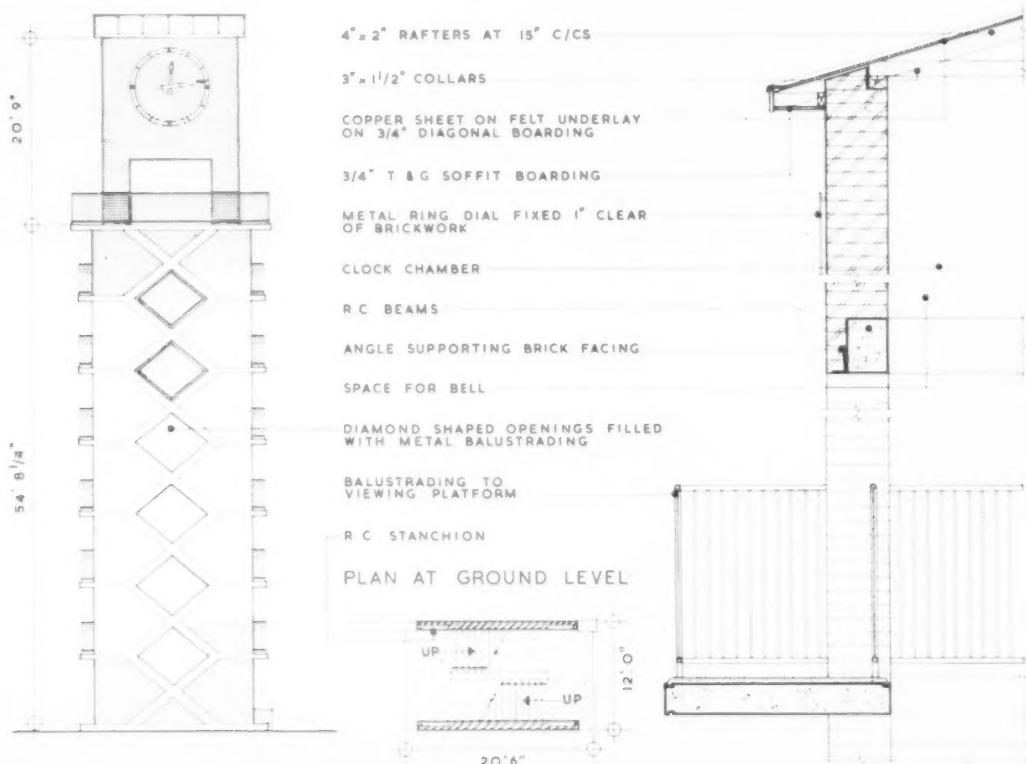
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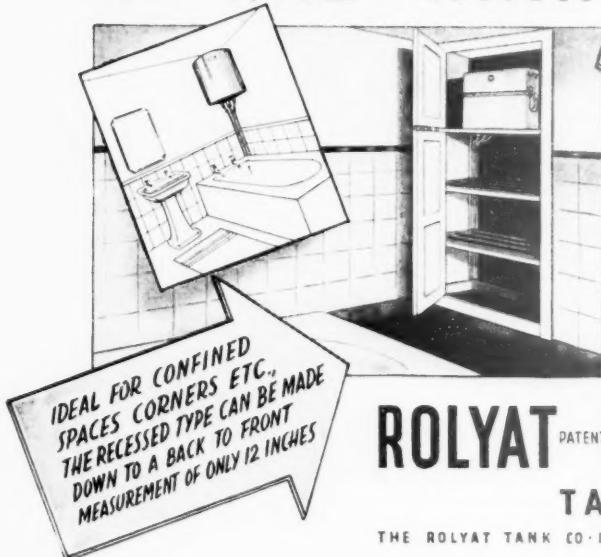
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essential place in Town and Country Planning. The interrelationship is admirably described in the Introduction to the Report of a Study Group of the Ministry of Town and Country Planning, incorporated in "Design of Dwellings," usually referred to as the Dudley Report, 1942-44:—

"Town planning itself secures the proper relationships between the elements of the town plan in regard to social uses, services, topography, architecture and landscape. Among these elements, housing is of first importance. The town planning and the housing authority are both concerned with the relation of different types of dwellings to each other, and to roads, open spaces, shops, factories and public buildings. The housing authority is concerned with housing accommodation in all its forms, as an essential public service; the planning authority is concerned with its place in a plan which embraces many forms of land use."

#### Primary Considerations:

Before areas for housing of various types can be either located or planned, the town planner must (a) estimate the amount of new housing of each type that is required and how much land must be provided for it, (b) discover what suitable land is available. In both these tasks he will seek the co-operation of a number of specialists, such as geographers, economists, geologists, sociologists, agriculturalists, and industrialists, and his conclusions will be conditioned by national and local policies.

#### Housing Need:

As all town planners well know, this is a most difficult estimate to make and one that is closely allied to employment prospects which are of national, regional and local consequence. Population trends, sex and age structure, which have an annoying habit of unpredictable fluctuation, have to be studied. Overspill, consequent upon the redevelopment of obsolete or obsolescent areas, must be calculated. The housing demand lists of the housing authorities have to be analysed and as far as practicable the overlaps weeded out. Also these lists and the overspill calculations must be adjusted in order to avoid counting twice over those now living in areas to be redeveloped and who therefore come into the preliminary overspill figures, but also have their names down on the lists as requiring new accommodation. It is, of course, a question of numbers and not of particular families.

Then employment prospects have to be studied, and from these studies, which must embrace regional as well as national and purely local circumstances, factors and considerations, will emerge the amount of employment likely to be available in the area being planned, and the population it can be expected to support. National and regional policies will have great overall significance, but local factors must be taken into account with reference to

local plans, and that is why it is important to consult the accredited representatives of those engaged in industry and commerce, in the area.

The prospective amount of local employment, for males and females, will be the decisive factor in assessing the population to be provided for, as it is obviously foolish to earmark space for people, and for their housing and all their other needs, unless means of livelihood, within their capacity and reach, are likely to be available for them.

#### Densities:

Densities for both new housing and redevelopment will have to be decided upon because they affect the amount of land required. It is of interest to note that this problem was discussed in the Report of a Study Group of the Ministry of Town and Country Planning, included in "Design of Dwellings." Standards of density for self-contained residential neighbourhoods of various types are recommended, and for central redevelopment the maximum net residential density recommended is 100 persons per acre. "In very few cases and then only in large concentrated urban areas, should it be necessary to rebuild at 120 persons per acre."

Another human need is food, which has to be grown on land, a commodity in short supply in this crowded island. So short that no one suggests that much more than half the food required by the present population can be home grown. This problem is mentioned merely as another indication of the broad planning considerations to which housing must inevitably be subject.

Decentralization of homes and foot-loose workplaces from overgrown and overcrowded urban agglomerations is now accepted Government policy, thereby providing elbow room for the rooted industries and major functions which must be centralized, also for the housing of those engaged in such industries and functions.

Reconstruction involves thinning out overcrowded areas and possibly some infilling of areas where the present size of garden is too large for individual family use and its upkeep beyond present family means.

#### The Siting of Housing Areas:

In considering this problem the town planner necessarily enters the field of competing claims for land use.

The chief competitors with housing and all its concomitants of schools, shops, playing fields, etc., are agricultural and, in not a few cases, mineral extraction. It follows that some sites which the town planner would毫不犹豫地 select for housing, because of healthy subsoil, sunny slopes, convenience of the inhabitants, economy in drainage, water supply, transport, etc., happen to be either first-class agricultural land or contain rich deposits of some mineral, e.g., coal, gravel, iron-stone, which are in great demand for industry, including building construction.

## DECORATIVE EXPRESSION IN ARCHITECTURE

*Extracts from a Lecture given by John M. Holmes, Dip. Fine Art (London) M.S.I.A., Hon. F.I.B.D., on August 15, at York Summer School of Architectural Study, St. John's College, York.*

AT a time when it is necessary to weigh every item in terms of coppers on the weekly housing rent and architects are successfully proving that they are good business men as well as artists it may seem somewhat incongruous to discuss decorative expression. Why, then, discuss decoration?

I would offer two reasons. First, a Summer School may be regarded as an opportunity to get away, for a short time at least, from day to day concerns and to take a long-term view of matters architectural. Secondly, I mean by "decorative expression" something much more fundamental than ornament. I mean, in short, that quality which distinguishes architecture as an art from buildings and engineering.

I speak then as a teacher, having been actively connected with architectural education for a quarter of a century at the A.A. School of Architecture and later at Manchester, and having been at least a witness to a major change. This change is primarily what I want to talk about to-day. Here, then, are two propositions which I ask you to consider; Decorative expression as I have defined it is the most important of architecture's characteristics, and the decorative expression which results from contemporary teaching of architecture reflects a misconception as to the nature of architecture.

The application of "science" to design which characterized the early part of the century produced functionalism and was concerned with the physical properties of men and of materials to fulfil physical purposes. The baby (expression of purpose or decoration) was thrown out with the bath water (meaningless applied ornament). Efforts were concentrated on designing a new and better bath in the new materials available.

Since that time development of expression, as distinct from fulfilment of function has become limited, in the case of industrial design to a smoothing of corners and hiding of working elements in blancmange-like coverings; and in the case of architecture to the somewhat superficial colouring and texturing of plain surfaces. Just as the washing machine looks much like the refrigerator or the television set; so the design for the church looks much the same as that for the factory or the concert hall.

In the Schools of Architecture standard courses for a standard national qualification produce standardized re-

sults. All buildings are in a so-called "Contemporary" style.

I suggest that this is not really a Style at all but a recipe derived from utility and convenience and influenced by fear, or ignorance, of art. If we are to have an architecture worthy of the means and ability available we cannot relinquish permanently the full means of decorative expression. Like music and literature architecture is a means of expression and communication as well as providing physical convenience. It must tell its purpose directly and indirectly. Such expression is architecture's main characteristic. The rest is technology.

Any pretence that human life can be made rational and remain satisfying has long been exploded.

Instincts, emotions, intuitions, impulses are still dominant, and anthropological research has underlined their importance. "Fitness for Purpose." What is the purpose of a cathedral or a city hall or home? The slogan begs the question. "A machine to live in?" A prison provides this.

Who really desires a standard home or to lead a standard life; however physically adequate it may be shown to be? It is always the other fellow who must or ought to want these conditions, if only he would be reasonable! It was reasonable to throw out the Orders and the meaningless ornament of the past and let new materials and constructional methods have their way. It would be foolish to imagine that we have the complete answer in this negative action.

We live in a technical age. Technology fulfills physical purposes which are measurable and readily comprehensible. They are based on man's physical measurements, habits and projects. On the other hand, architecture and art are also concerned with the expression of spiritual, aesthetic and psychological purposes and aspirations.

The world is full of the successes of technology; but look at the world! We must not let architecture become technology or vice-versa. Technological triumphs are for the most part expedients or palliatives. Men are crowded in cities as a result of the technological triumphs which produced the machines; and the design degradation of the machine age. The pre-fabs are the technological answer to the problem resulting from the technologically triumphant bomb.

But even those who believe that an architect is merely a superior technologist may agree that architectural education is stagnant. There is constant production in the Schools of designs for many different types of buildings which are yet the same design. Characteristics are the open plan, the flat roof, the large areas of textured and coloured surfaces, the absence of decorative or ornamental forms of any kind; in fact a rather monotonous repetition of a recipe first adopted in the inter-war years. This recipe is now so generally accepted that any design is a matter of ingenuity rather than of artistry; and the limited

rules may be understood in a few simple lessons.

But if architectural education is stagnant is not architecture itself in the doldrums? The United Nations Secretariat building in New York is the achievement to large scale of the same limited formula.

Last year an architect was faced with a huge project unique in present circumstances when our buildings are for the most part housing schemes, schools or factories and where economy is a first consideration. It was a project which involved the expression of all kinds of abstract ideas and which required the combination of all kinds of design ability.

This is what Sir Hugh Casson said after his South Bank Exhibition experiences: "The ignorance and the disinterestedness manifested between the arts was simply staggering to me. The painter knew nothing about the sculptor. The sculptor was bored by painting and the architect had a disgracefully limited knowledge of the visual arts. The Universities" he said, "were turning out skilled architectural barbarians."

With one or two exceptions the architect's University training is completely isolated from that of the sculptor, painter and designer. Traditionally, and for no other discoverable reason, the Universities regard architecture as an Arts subject. History of Art is also so regarded. Gentlemen of the 18th century indulged in architecture as a polite art; and so it still is. Painting, Sculpture and Design are not polite. Paint is troublesome to clean off the hands. The carving of stone is a dusty and laborious business. The student of architecture is immured from his fellow students in art schools and colleges. He works in lecture rooms and drawing studios.

The results in after life are painful and it would seem that such isolation did not exist in outstanding periods of the past; as for instance the Italian Renaissance and the combined work under Le Brun for Louis 14th. The Bauhaus School in Germany may be regarded as an exceptional period of combined training during the continuing development of isolated School of Architecture training, since the Industrial Revolution. Such isolation has been strengthened by courses for national qualifications like the A.R.I.B.A. and the Ministry of Education National Diploma for the different subjects of painting, sculpture and design.

The teachers concerned with the training of students for these separate qualifications can do very little about it. The specialized syllabuses take up all available time. The examination reflects the syllabus in each case and the examiners themselves have received the same kind of water-tight training; either in architecture or some form of art. The student who departs from the separate course laid down by 19th century tradition will risk failure. There is no time for collaboration with

other students engaged in special study if one means to qualify.

But if the resulting gap between artists and architects becomes distressing when they are asked to combine on any given project the gap between artist and society which reflects this dissonance is even more painful. At one extreme there is the machine-inspired world of Le Corbusier based on physical convenience and at the other extreme the painters abstract or imaginative world of surrealism.

Is it surprising that the man in the street has lost touch with and interest in, art and that the workers of the Arts Council and the teachers of art appreciation find life very difficult? But what should be done about it? What can be done? Here are three suggestions for necessary steps, . . .

First, a realization that what we call contemporary style is not a style at all but merely a rationalizing of structure for physical convenience suitable for only certain types of buildings; and incomplete and inappropriate for others. The irrational decorative expression is equally fundamental and necessary.

There cannot be one way of designing for all buildings and interiors. The building or the interior must not only fulfil a physical purpose but must express it.

Expression of individual purpose in the home of efficient technical purpose in the factory and of public purpose in its many forms in public buildings, is at the heart of the problem.

A theatre or cinema must be gay, baroque and strictly unreasonable. Its business is illusion.

A City Hall must be a monument to the home, of efficient technical purpose government as well as a place where rates are paid. We want colourful efficiency in a factory, spiritual inspiration in a place of worship and romance in a tea garden or a pavilion in a park.

A bus-stop shelter is less than adequate if it merely provides shelter.

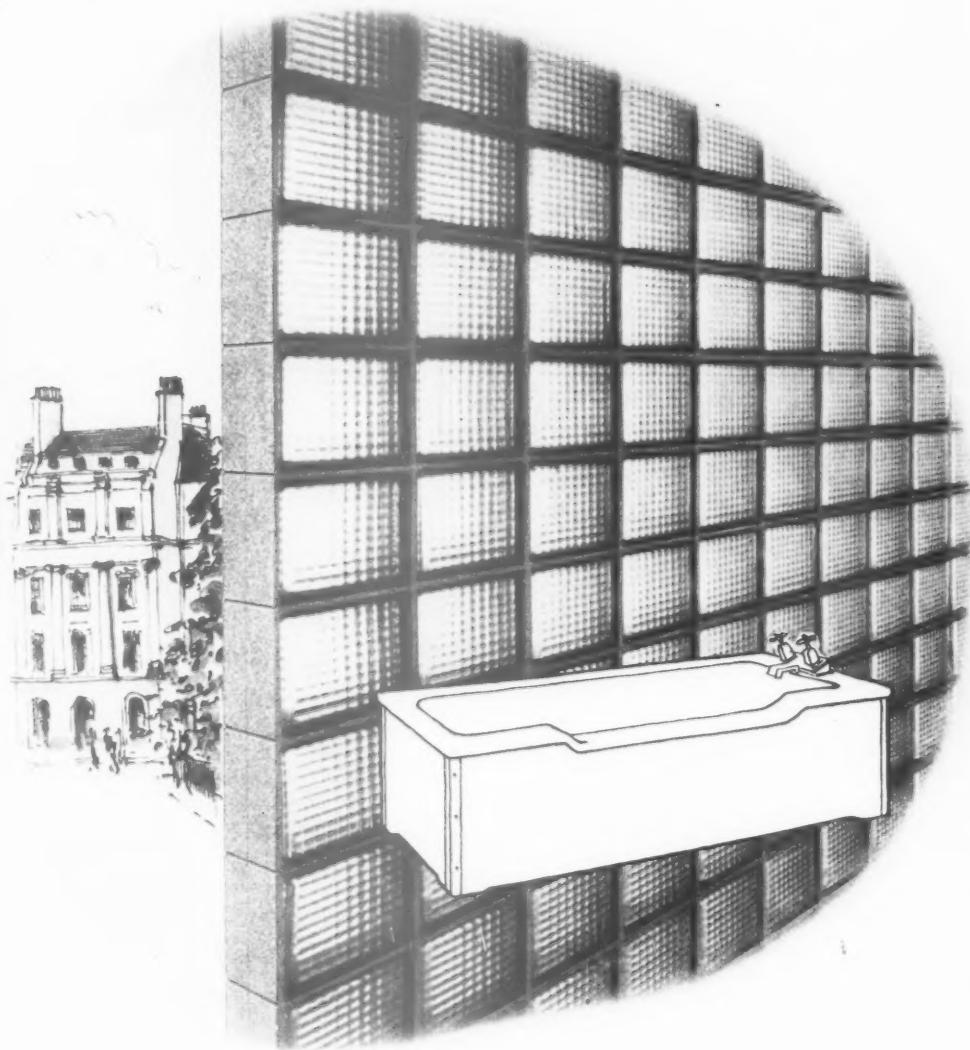
Some buildings must have as their almost total justification the expression of an abstract purpose. It is the designer's job to communicate that purpose in terms of decorative expression.

But first there must be a realization that communication of purpose is necessary. This would entail a change of attitude to architecture in most schools.

My second necessary step already implied by the first, is that the architecture student should appreciate the complexity of the human mind in addition to the needs of the human body.

The interest of men and women consists in their infinite variety, in their subconscious reactions, in their instincts, institutions, and illusions. This complexity is reflected in the necessity for many different types of buildings for many different purposes and the consequent necessity to provide buildings which express these purposes.

In the 18th century there was such a generally accepted idiom. It was not



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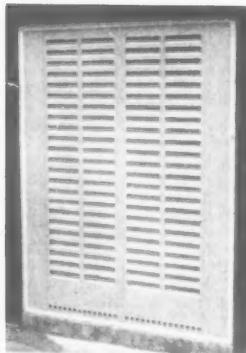
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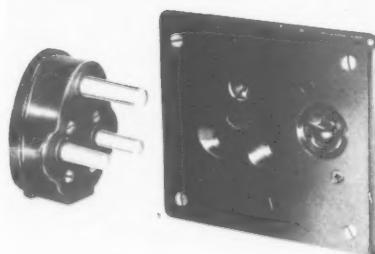


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SINKS, ETC.  
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Automatic is the name coined for this combined sink unit, washing machine and draining machine, a full-size unit of advanced design, incorporated beneath the hinged metal drainer of the sink unit. Two tubs are provided and these are interchangeable—the one not in use is stored in the right hand cupboard beneath the sink.

The cabinet is of stout cage aluminium with a stainless steel front panel. Separate taps and drain trap prevent syphonage between the sink and the washing machine.

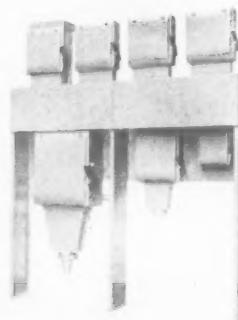
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*continued from page 302*

a recipe or a formula but appeared with great variety and to express many purposes; gaiety, solemnity, formality and informality, permanence and impermanence.

Fashions such as the present one for Victorian, temporarily fill the vacuum caused by the lack of a contemporary decorative idiom. They are but symptoms of our partial starvation and the unsatisfied need for decorative expression.

My third necessary step in architectural education is based upon the belief that creative ability is being flagrantly dispersed. The means of achieving contemporary decorative expression are in the hands of the painters, sculptors, designers and craftsmen as well as in those of the architect. But how can the student of architecture know of the minds and methods of these other students unless his training is associated with theirs to mutual advantage?

It is possible to arrange for daily association and combined designing in only a few institutions in this country, and where painters, designers and sculptors work in the same building and under the same organization; and then only during time extracted from the specialist time-tables in each case. During such periods student representatives from the different specialized courses are grouped to work on a common project involving the design of some building or part of a building. They meet as equals with a member of staff or a student teacher as client. The final work shows the results of mutual discussion and creation.

The general gaining of this advantage is fraught with many administrative difficulties, which must not be underrated. It would include re-organization of training and perhaps of different accommodation for the large majority of architecture students; re-adjustments in the examination system for architect, painter, sculptor and designer students, and a re-orientation of the prevailing attitude to architecture; and art and architectural education.

Perhaps this last requirement should come first.

## Water Installations

A MEMBER of a well-known firm of plumbers and domestic engineers has been drawing my attention to a number of what seem to some to be small points, but are, in fact, ones which make a great difference in ensuring efficient water installations, especially from the building occupier's aspect.

The first point referred to the inaccessibility of the control on the rising main in so many houses; it was suggested it should be placed at an eye-level height and in a position where it received adequate day and artificial light so that it was both accessible and obvious to the housewife.

The second point related also to control valves on the hot and cold water distribution systems. Water bivalves sometimes require these to be adjacent to the cold storage cistern but it is very much to be preferred if they are made more accessible and therefore on first floor level so they may be reached without having to get into attics; the most desirable position is again one which can be reached by a housewife without the need for steps. Incidentally, he suggested that gate valves or straight-through plug cocks are better for these controls than screw-down types owing to erosion of the washers, also, if this type is used, they should have captive jumpers.

These two points brought the conversation round to the subject of labelling of control valves. He said much time, trouble and loss of temper would be saved if every valve were to be marked clearly with a wired-on engraved or pressed plastic label. Such labels could easily be mass-produced, as the descriptions for most buildings are relatively few in number, so that the cost should be very small.

My attention was drawn to the need for very careful consideration of the siting of cold storage cisterns in relation to flushing cisterns planned on upper floors of houses having only 7 ft 6 in high rooms, as it is desirable that the ball-valves in the flushing cisterns have at least 6 ft head of water to ensure efficient operation. In small houses cold cisterns can seldom be lifted this amount above high level flushing cisterns but if they can be so placed, the access to their ball-valves is apt to be extremely difficult. This plumber agreed with me that flushing cisterns fed directly from the main supply are undesirable on account of the possibility of the pressure varying too much for the ball-valves to work efficiently; if valves are properly set to fill to a water line at low pressures overflowing is likely at high pressure. Cold water cisterns have the advantage of providing almost constant pressures within the house and also take care of supply failures or pressure reductions in peak periods.

The next point to which he turned was noise from flushing cisterns. He

pointed out that all ball-valves should be fitted with proper silencers and that it was easier to do this with "Portsmouth" valves, as those covered by B.S.1212, than with the "Croydon" type. He also recommended valveless siphon types of control in flushing cisterns and the avoidance of the Burlington type which is particularly noisy even if expensive. He said it was a pity that siphonic type W.C.s were not available at more competitive prices. Not only can noise be reduced by the use of better types of ball-valves and flushing cisterns but also by the more careful fixing of supply pipes in positions least likely to transmit noise.

I was interested to note that he said he had found an increase in planning of pipe runs and in the use of lagging to conserve heat and particularly to avoid freezing. It was notable that more pipes were, it appeared, being placed on internal walls, thus tending to eliminate the notorious "eaves" bends on rising mains and distribution services.

He had a comment on hot water storage tanks and cylinders to the effect that there are still far too many fixed so that the largest dimension is not vertical and therefore less efficient than they might be. Also, quite frequently the capacity was insufficient to provide adequate bathing facilities. He reminded me also that too few architects and builders seemed to realize that the capacities laid down in water bivalves are "actual" requirements and not "nominal." He pointed out that B.S.417 had been amended to take account of this fact and to discourage the ordering of "nominal" capacity tanks and cylinders but only some catalogues seemed yet to have been brought into line.

In the discussion reference was made to the use of flushing valves as there appears to be a considerable difference of opinion among water supply authorities about their use. He said he believed about one hundred authorities would permit them if they are fed from cisterns but the remainder of the authorities, including some large ones, still refuse to permit their use on the ground that sooner or later they cause wastage of water. No authority appears to permit flush valves to be fed directly from the mains. I wonder whether it would not be possible to lay down requirements for flush valves against which new types might be designed which would be acceptable to all water suppliers.

On the subject of pipe sizes it was suggested that these are frequently inadequate to ensure proper supplies; for example, the flow from the taps on the upper floor of a house is often greatly reduced when a ground floor tap is opened and sometimes the feed is inadequate to supply both the bath and the basin at the same time. It was

recommended that iron barrel should always be larger than copper or lead to allow for partial choking, as it is so often used in hard water districts where furring of pipes may be expected. One of the most frequent faults is too small a feed pipe from the cold cistern to the hot water apparatus. It is desirable that the supply pipe to feed a bath and a basin should be 1 in if iron, although 1 in may be just sufficient if it is of copper.

Another source of trouble to plumbers is the poor facilities, or even the omission to provide facilities, for completely emptying down the whole system for cleaning tanks and boilers. It takes far too long if swabs and buckets have to be used to empty a storage cistern. The best provision for cold supply cisterns is to fit a flanged valve in the bottom leading, in a good straight run, out to a gutter or rain water head; the accumulated mud can then be stirred up and run out. Cisterns would last much longer if they were cleaned out regularly as there is less liability to corrosion, but this is seldom done owing to the difficulties involved in removing the water below the level of the hot and cold service feed pipes. Incidentally, it seldom seems to occur to those installing domestic boilers and similar apparatus that sufficient working space is needed near the drain cock for connecting a hose and for turning the lever of the plug cock, which is usually very hard to move.

Stress was laid on the need, in these days of a wide use of electric immersion heaters, to keep secondary circulation as short as possible and to be sure that radiators in linen cupboards and towel rails in bathrooms are provided with control valves so that they can be cut out when not specially needed. Many systems cause quite unnecessary use of power and are therefore unduly costly to the occupiers of the premises, which could be avoided by more thoughtful planning of the pipe runs.

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**STATES OF GUERNSEY HOUSING AUTHORITY.** (a) 36 flats, etc., Victoria Avenue, Guernsey. (b) States Engineer, States Office Annexe, Albert Pier, Guernsey. (c) 2gns. (e) Oct. 6.

**TOWCESTER R.C.** (a) 12 houses and construction of site works at Stoke Bruerne. (b) Mr. Geo. Berridge, 163, Watling Street West. (c) 1gn. (e) Sept. 15.

**UTTOXETER U.C.** (a) 62 houses, etc., Copes Park Estate. (b) Council's Architect, Old Bank House Annex, High Street. (c) 2gns. (e) Sept. 27.

**WALTON AND WEYBRIDGE U.C.** (a) 40 houses, Cottimore Lane Estate. (b) Engineer and Surveyor, Council Offices, Walton-on-Thames. (e) Sept. 27.

**WALTON AND WEYBRIDGE U.C.** (a) 18 flats, Sidney Read, Walton-on-Thames. (b) Engineer and Surveyor, Council Offices, Walton-on-Thames. (e) Sept. 27.

**WATFORD R.C.** (a) 32 houses, Anthony Close, Green Lane, Oxhey. (b) Messrs. Dawe, Carter and Partners, 83, High Street. (c) 1gn. (d) Sept. 15.

**WEST HARTLEPOOL B.C.** (a) Rossmer primary school. (b) Borough Architect, Municipal Buildings. (e) Oct. 6.

**WEST RIDING C.C.** (a) Alterations and additions at "Cragdale" Settle, to provide court accommodation. (b) County Architect, "Bishopsgarth," Westfield Road, Wakefield. (e) Sept. 12.

**WEST RIDING C.C.** (a) Adaptations at Sedbergh Settlebeck Secondary Modern School. (b) County Architect, "Bishopsgarth," Westfield Road, Wakefield. (e) 1gn. (e) Sept. 29.

### PLACED

Notes on contracts placed state locality and authority in bold type with (1) type of work, (2) site, (3) name of contractor and address, (4) amount of tender or estimate. \* denotes that work may not start pending final acceptance, or obtaining of licence, or modification of tenders, etc.

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**ELLESMERE PORT U.D.C.** (1) Supply and erection of non-traditional houses. (3) Holland & Hannen and Cubitts, Ltd., Garston, Liverpool. (4) £795,288.

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**ROWLEY REGIS B.C.** (1) 86 houses, etc. (2) Cox's Farm Estate. (3) Nathan Hyde, Claremont Road, Sedgley. (4) £119,227. (1) 74 houses. (2) Brickhouse Farm. (3) Direct Labour. (4) £108,058.

**EPSOM B.C.** (1) 88 and 24 dwellings. (2) Chessington Road. (3) Negotiations with Carlton Contractors, Ltd., 15, Lingfield Crescent, London, S.E.9.

**DARTFORD B.C.** (1) 94 dwellings. (2) Temple Hill. (3) Hawker-Smith, Ltd., Gravel Hill, Rochester Way, Betley, Kent. (4) £109,232.

**WALSALL B.C.** (1) 94 houses. (2) Field Road. (3) United Construction (Walsall), Ltd., 54, Green Lane, Walsall. (4) £119,564.

**MANSFIELD T.C.** (1) 203 "No Fines" houses. (2) Ladbroke Estate. (3) Geo. Wimpey and Co., Ltd., The Grove, Hamersmith, W.6. (4) £267,680.

**CRAWLEY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION.** (1) Housing contracts. (2) West Green. (3) James Longley and Co., Ltd., East Park, Crawley. (4) £60,497. (1) Housing. (2) Northgate. (3) Y. J. Lovell and Son, Ltd., 10, Gildridge Road, Eastbourne. (4) £65,926.

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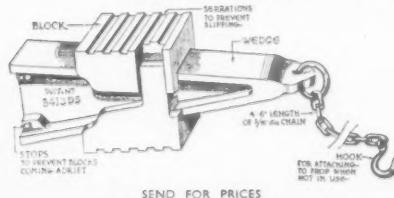
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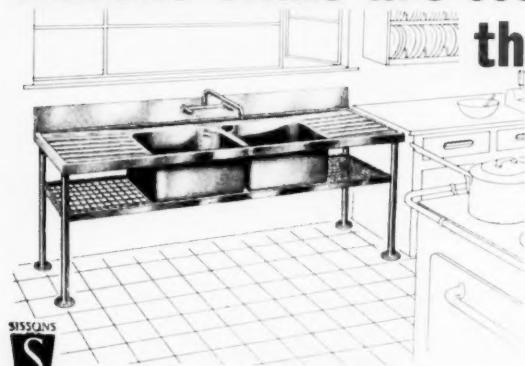
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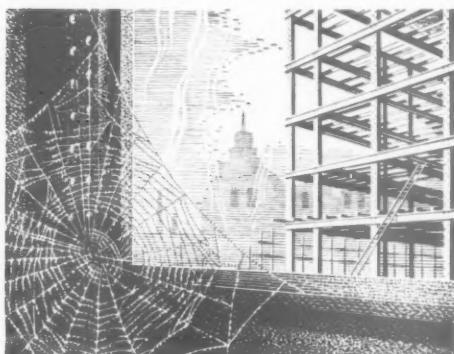
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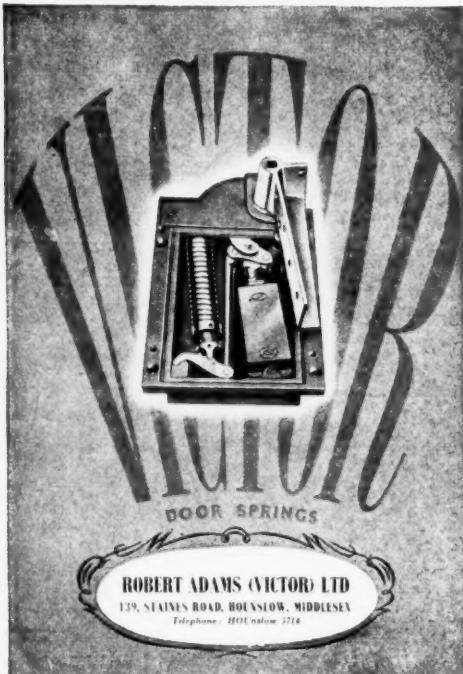
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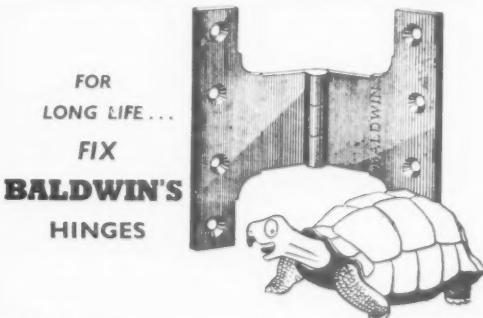
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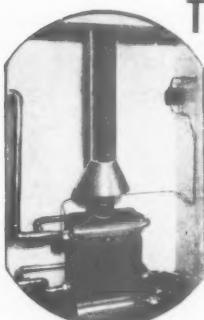
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[6636]

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Council Offices, Melton Hill,  
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[6642]

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D. G. DODDS,  
Secretary

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[6643]

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G. E. SMITH,  
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West Ham Town Hall, Stratford, E.15.

[6647]

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[6618]

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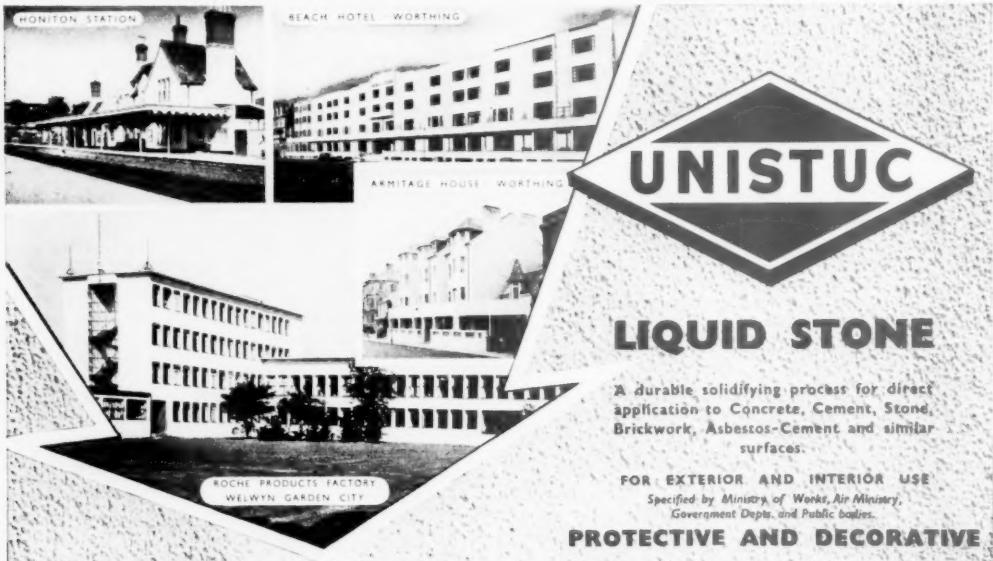
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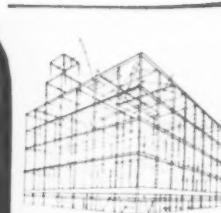
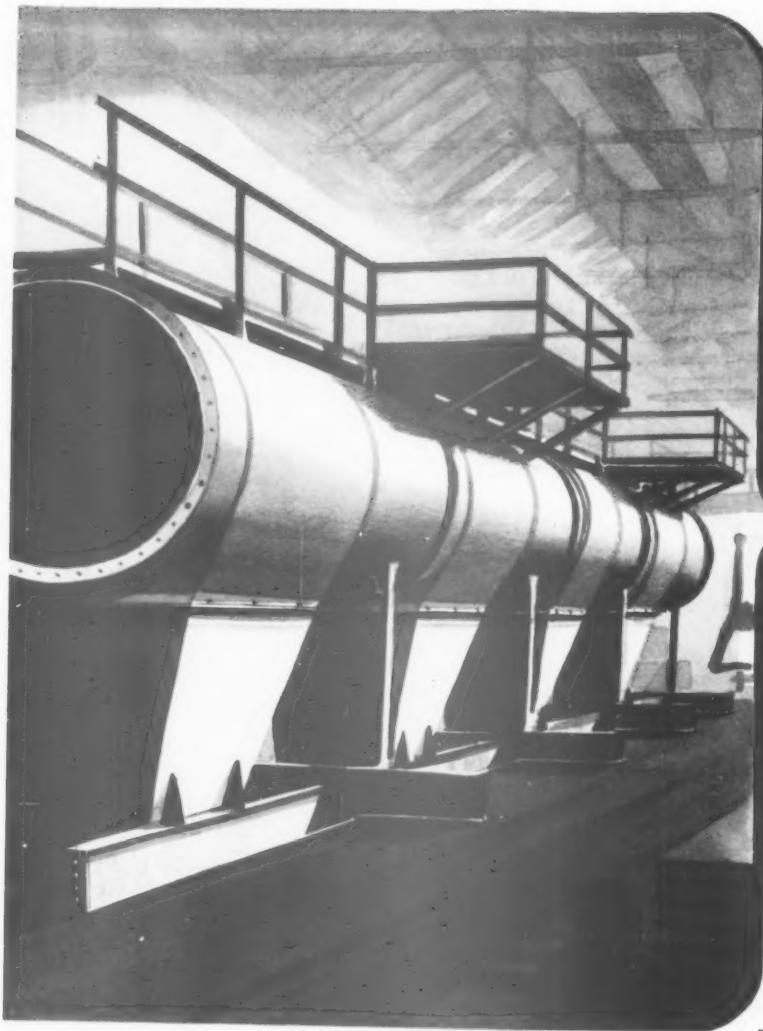
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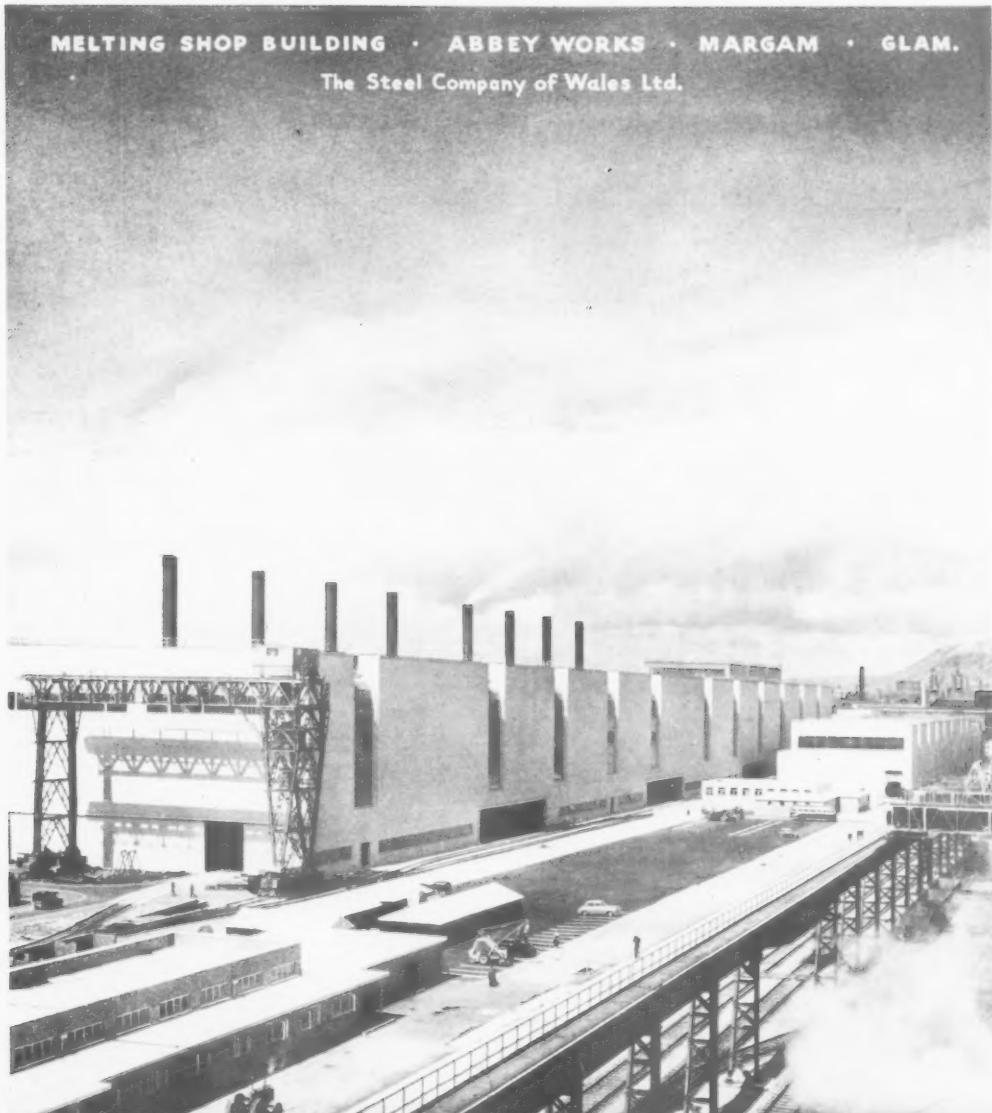
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